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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

French leader begins official visit to Jordan President Chirac pushes for a new European role in Mideast

Unlike the cool reception in Israel, Chirac is received by Palestinians as a close friend



Photo by Khalil Mazrawi

King Hussein welcoming President Chirac upon his arrival in Amman Wednesday

Chirac addresses Parliament today, holds press conference with King

AMMAN—French President Jacques Chirac arrived from Gaza Wednesday evening on a two-day visit to Jordan. He was received at Marka Airport by His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti and senior Jordanian officials. Mr Chirac is accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette.

Jordanian-French began Wednesday night at the Royal Court between the King and Mr Chirac. They were followed by a dinner banquet hosted by King Hussein in honor of Mr Chirac and the accompanying delegation.

Today, Thursday, President Chirac will deliver a speech at the Parliament, after that Mr Chirac will host a luncheon for King Hussein at the residence of the French Ambassador in Amman, Mr Bernard Bajolel.

King Hussein and President Chirac will hold a press conference Thursday afternoon before the end of Mr Chirac's visit. During President Chirac's visit a number of cooperation

French call for European role requires Arab support, observers say

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer

IT'S BEEN a long time since a visit by a foreign head of state to Jordan received so much publicity and popular approval as this week's visit of French President Jacques Chirac. The French leader's Middle East tour is seen by Jordanians as a significant step on the road to strengthening the European role in the Middle East.

Many agree that a forceful European role would end US monopoly on the political future of the region and create a more balanced political environment.

"The European presence will help secure the needed balance, without which there will be no confidence, and without confidence there will be no progress," Mr Bernard Bajolel, the French Ambassador in Amman told The Star.

"The peace process will not make any progress unless a balance is achieved. But, presently this balance does not exist," he said.

Adding that he while he did not cast doubt on the role of the main sponsor "the current joint sponsorship of the process is not satisfactory, it is imbalanced and biased".

For Arab intellectuals and political observers, Chirac's de Gaulle principles is a welcome change for an area that has lost faith in international law and lofty principles. President Chirac's visit will help reposition France and Europe as a whole in terms of their position towards the region and its future.

Jordanian political commentators have long repeated calls for a strong European role in the Middle East peace process. There is an agreement that the United States is unable to play the role of an honest broker in mediating between the Arabs and Israel.

"I think the Arabs who joined the peace process have forgotten the fact that the Europeans are there, and that they are closer to our causes as a result of the historical relations and history," said Dr Hussni Al Shiyab, a political science professor at the University of Jordan.

"Europeans feel that their interests and role are being marginalized by the Americans and now they decided it was high time to rise up and to defend their interests. This is what Chirac's visit to the region means."

Al Shih said the Europeans are trying to become a political as well as an economic power in a unipolar world. They no longer accept to pawn their political will to the Americans, he said.

He and others believe that this is the time for the Arabs to support Europe's political campaign and find a place for Europe in the region.

"The Europeans are ignored create a confrontation with the Americans for the sake of Arab causes, while the Arabs themselves are surrendering their rights," Masarwa said.

The general mood in Jordan is that the US can not continue to treat the Europeans as strangers to the Arab-Israeli conflict and it can not continue to push them aside.

"At one point, just as France is doing now, the Europeans might decide to stand up to the American position. All what is needed from Arab leaders is a decisive stand," said Mr Labib Kamhawi, another political commentator.

"Europe has more legitimate interest in the Middle East than the US, because we are the back door of Europe, we are southern Europe. And we are the historical traditional partners of the Europeans," he said.

France believes the climate is convenient for France and Europe to play an active role in the area, said Mr Bajolel. "We intend to have a role, this is not restricted to the present time, but because we are linked to this area. Everything which affects the region affects us too," the ambassador said.

Such an Arab stand is a prerequisite for a successful European entry into the region. "It is impossible for the Europeans to

water and sanitation. "There is a change of awareness. The private sector is now already the majority in production and investment," said Nawal Tawaji, Egypt's economy minister. "In fact, if you look at Egyptian history, nationalization is only a very brief phenomenon."

This new spirit has raised some hopes at the World Bank about the fate of the seven poorer Middle East and North African countries it deals with directly—Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen—as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"In some places, 1996 has been a year of substantial growth. It may be a turning point," Dervis said.

The turnaround may be as slow as a supertanker changing course. Arab governments long have used threats such as political instability, Islamic radicalism and the Arab-Israeli conflict as excuses for authoritarian control.

To help shake the poorer states awake, the World Bank has made some disturbing calculations. The fact that Arab populations are still growing at a rate of 2.5 percent means that,

after 15 more years of their current 3 percent economic growth, they still will be stuck in 2010 with an income virtually unchanged at \$1,300 per head.

The warnings are there for all to see. Conference delegates said the bloody civil war in Algeria was perhaps less a product of Islamic ideology than of a regime that failed to deal with growing poverty, ballooning population growth, a state-controlled economy and a corrupt elite that refused to share the benefits of the country's considerable petrochemical wealth.

Fears of instability, immigrants and refugees also have prompted action from the European Union, which sponsored most of the Istanbul conference.

The rich EU member nations already have pumped the equivalent of \$1.1 billion into plans and projects to develop run-down or nonexistent infrastructure in its southern neighbors. Many consider infrastructure investment to be the wheels, if not the engine, for spurring economic growth.

The poorer states that qualify for World Bank lending can supply less than half the annual \$10 billion needed for new infrastructure investment.

The World Bank calculates that it can

supply only one-sixth more. That leaves a financing gap of more than \$4 billion a year, and the only possible source is the private sector.

The poorer Arab countries have created such unfriendly investment climates that they are currently attracting just 1 percent of the estimated \$60 billion of private money being invested each year in infrastructure projects worldwide.

To get around the problem, the World Bank is offering to try to bridge the credibility gap. It has long performed this role in the bond markets, borrowing on the strength of its premium rating and lending the money to the developing world at a marginal markup.

Arab governments, however, must be ready to meet the bank halfway in developing better legal frameworks and foreign exchange management, according to Nemat Shafik, one of the bank's regional managers. Only then will the World Bank insure private investors against any risks beyond the normal commercial ones.

It's an idealistic vision that so far has had only a dozen takers around the world. "I don't think there are any individuals in America ready to invest in the Middle East... except if there are special reasons, like they come from the region," said Gregory Fishbein, a conference participant from Mercer Management in Boston. "It's too big, long-term and complicated."

Le président français Jacques Chirac en visite en Jordanie

Voir page 12

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Negotiators inch towards an agreement on Hebron

By Rebecca Tronson

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

OCUPIED JERUSALEM—Israeli and Palestinian negotiators appeared closer than ever to reaching an agreement over redeploying Israeli troops in Hebron late Wednesday, but both sides were still some points which remained unresolved.



Arafat and Ross discuss the peace process in Gaza

News of progress came 24 hours after a US envoy who had announced that he planned to leave the Middle East decided instead to delay his departure and resumed brokering peace talks into the early hours Tuesday.

Both Israeli and Palestinian officials said progress in the delicate discussions about an Israeli redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron brought US peace envoy Dennis Ross back from the airport to sit down again at the negotiating table.

But there were conflicting reports late Tuesday on whether the two sides were close to reaching an accord on Hebron, the last and most sensitive of seven West Bank cities due to be turned over to Palestinian control under a 1995 agreement.

"It's close to an end. It's not yet finished," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters Tuesday. "I hope it will end quickly."

A top Palestinian official, however, described Tuesday's progress as limited. "I would agree there's been some movement but I think there's also some exaggeration there," said Marwan Kanafani, an adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

US officials said Ross was en route to the airport shortly before midnight Monday when he took a call on his cellular telephone that progress had been made by the joint com-

mittee discussing civilian issues, the planning and zoning rules that will be put in place once the Israelis complete a partial withdrawal from the city.

"We delayed our departure last night because we were in the middle of the most promising discussions to date on the issue of civilian affairs," Ross said in a statement. He was sent to the region by President Clinton after a recent upsurge in violence claimed more than 75 lives and left hundreds of other people injured.

Israeli and US officials said the negotiations had produced a draft agreement on the civilian issues, which the two leaders and their aides were said to be examining Tuesday night.

A parallel round of discussions on security issues appeared to be on rockier terrain. Palestinian negotiators walked out at one point, with one official reportedly describing the attitude of Israeli delegates as that of "occupiers toward the occupied."

Israeli officials said the Palestinians seemed to be stalling, hoping to put off an overall agreement on Hebron until after the US presidential elec-

tions, apparently in the belief that more pressure might then be brought to bear on Israel. The security talks resumed late Tuesday night.

Kanafani said the Palestinians appreciated the efforts of Ross and other US mediators but said the matters resolved so far represented only a few of the outstanding issues. "The civilian side, it's maybe 10 percent of the whole agreement," Kanafani said. "And we're maybe 50 percent of the way on that 10 percent."

Other issues, Palestinian officials have said, include expansion of Jewish settlements, the release of Palestinian prisoners and the question of safe passage between Palestinian-ruled areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The need for progress in the peace talks was underscored on the West Bank with reports of violence Tuesday and Israel's decision to close its borders with Gaza Strip on Wednesday for fear of reprisals attacks to mark the anniversary of the killing of Fathi Shuhadi, a leader of Islamic Jihad, who was gunned down in Malta a year ago.

Arabs urged to go back to the future

By Hugh Pope

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

ISTANBUL—In Lebanon, a busy government dreams of regaining the country's prewar status as commercial hub of the eastern Mediterranean. But ordinary Lebanese still can wait years to get a telephone line.

Peace hopes in the Middle East have raised Jordan's ambitions to become a regional crossroads. But while its ministries buzz with projects, Amman was able to invest an average of just \$1.50 per capita in telecommunications last year.

Even in Morocco, stable and growing steadily at the kingdom produces just one-fifth of the electricity of similar developing countries worldwide.

"Throughout the region, governments have now decided to catch up," said Kemal Dervis, the World Bank's vice president for the Middle East and North Africa. "But (economic) growth rates must double. If they continue with business as usual, in 15 years' time everybody will be in the same place they are today."

Dervis delivered his warning last week in a speech to an Istanbul conference on how to finance the region's infrastructure.



The image of the rich Arab sheikh is also out of date as the wealthier states of the region have found low oil prices and wasteful use of utilities burning bigger and bigger holes in their budgets.

Both the rich and poor of the Arab world's 280 million people are suffering from two legacies: that of the 1960s, in which Arab nations celebrated full independence by

nationalizing everything in sight according to the central planning beliefs of the time, and that of the 1970s, when the quadrupling of oil prices meant they could afford it.

In the cold light of the 1990s, bad habits formed in the heyday of easy money have turned into a developmental curse. They have spawned armed conflicts, over-centralized governments, inefficient state-run industries, dependent-minded populations and jealous, corrupt bureaucracies.

"Social organizations, like man, must evolve or perish," Abdelatif Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, warned regional planners and financiers at the conference. "I wonder, in the presence of government representatives here, whether they have the capacity to evolve or perish as dinosaurs."

Arab ministers who spoke after the tough-talking Kuwaiti banker seemed to have taken the reform message to heart. The only way out of their development bottleneck, they agreed, is to embrace market forces and clear the way for private investment in basic infrastructure such as power, telecommunications, transportation,

water and sanitation. "There is a change of awareness. The private sector is now already the majority in production and investment," said Nawal Tawaji, Egypt's economy minister. "In fact, if you look at Egyptian history, nationalization is only a very brief phenomenon."

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Amnah Bint Al Wahab school

A social role to overcome poverty and maintain pupils' success

By Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

RUSSEIFEH—With more than 50 percent of Jordanians enrolled in schools and colleges, our children are seen as the "wealth" and "hope" for the future.

During the first five years of his life, the child is totally dependent on the family unit, particularly on the mother. As the child reaches school age, his upbringing becomes shared with the teacher. Schools should be seen as the source of pride because they help socialize children into becoming respectable members of society. One school is trying to fulfil its mission in spite of financial and social challenges. Amnah Bint Al Wahab School in Russeifeh is coping with the rapid changes and is expanding its role in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Pressure on the school started after the Gulf War in 1990. Because of the returnees with young children, they had to introduce a two-shift system. A group of pupils attended the school's morning shift until noon and the other from 12 am until 5 pm. The girls' school teaches students up till the eighth grade.

Speaking on the administration's performance in managing to control the 12-dunum school, the headmistress of one shift, Mrs Hayat Al Meimi said that "the beginning was difficult and we faced problems, but through cooperation and coordination with my colleague, the second shift headmistress, I think we've achieved noticeable success."

"After the Gulf war, our school was able to accommodate an additional 700 pupils. Now there are 2400 girls, and 130 boys in the elementary grades."

Additional students led to overcrowding in classrooms, some of which had as much as 45 pupils. The headmistress says that this is stressful, both for students and teachers.

The second shift is a problem because the children finish at five o'clock. "This is difficult for students especially during winter because it gets dark earlier," Mrs Al

Meimi says. This is why "we change shifts for pupils on a monthly basis."

However, the crowding is extenuated yearly because Amnah Bint Al Wahab is the only girls school for other neighborhoods in Russeifeh, a city of 100,000 inhabitants. These include Al Qadisiyah, Al Rasheed and Al Jabal Al Shamali.

With no buses provided, some students walk for no less than five kilometers to get to school from their homes. On rainy days this journey is made more difficult and dangerous.

Mrs Shabiyah Hyassat, the headmistress of the second shift, points to the problem of late arrivals. Because of the distance some pupils arrive just when the second period is about to begin.

However, despite problems, the teachers are managing to put on a brave face. In a low-income area, the school has come to play an important social role. Although fees are minimal—two to three dinars per year—some families are unable to pay such a sum.

Some of these families are not even able to provide their children with the most basic needs such as pens, pencils and copy-books. Others are so poor that they can't afford to give their children the five piasters needed to buy a sandwich.

"Many families in our area are poverty-stricken. Their financial problems have their toll. They can't comprehend that their children must arrive to school on time and that they must attend regularly to be able to succeed in their subjects," Mrs Hyassat says.

The school does its best to help these pupils overcome such difficulties. "The fees we get are mostly allocated to cover the expenses required by the school especially equipment needed for laboratories, theater, school garden, cultural activities, library and first aid materials," Mrs Hyassat adds.

"The rest of these fees together with what we call Al Qirsh Al Khayri (the charity piaster), that is collected by voluntary donation, are given to the poor children to assist their families," Mrs Hyassat says. The

educational councillor makes an assessment of the most needy children and then makes a report to the school's administration. "Funds are then distributed on that basis," the headmistress adds.

Teachers also take an active participation in the charity fund. It is they who buy such things as school uniforms, and stationary which they distribute to the children. Cash aid is also given.

"Al Qirsh Al Khayri is actually donations from pupils to pupils," Mrs Hyassat says.

But that is not all. During Ramadan and in the Eid festivities, the school asks pupils to bring food and clothes for those in need, and a committee is formed of pupils, teachers and the councillor to distribute these, Mrs Hayat says. The school also organizes a free medical treatment day for the people who live nearby.

Through these activities the school has established a strong relationship with the community. This is also helped by the fact that the administration organizes a parent-teachers meeting once a month. The parents, particularly mothers are invited to discuss the progress of their children with the teachers. "The teachers use such meetings as an opportunity to know more about the pupils," Mrs Hyassat adds.

But even here it is difficult to get parents to come. "Only mothers with clever pupils come regularly and ask about their daughters," she points out. "We want other mothers to come and cooperate with us."

The school also organizes plays, games, and picnics. The Amnah Bint Al Wahab school won major prizes in theater productions, gardening and chess. The school participates in national celebrations such as Independence Day and in environmental activities.

But there are other problems concerning pupils. Based on studies conducted by the school, the educational councillor says that pupils suffer from poor health, especially those in the primary stages.

Because of neglect, their families are usually not aware of such problems. "They should come to us and make us aware of these problems right from the start," the



One of the many celebrations held in the school

councillor who didn't want her name mentioned. Many physical complaints are the result of malnutrition that could lead to difficult breathing and a rapid heart pulse. "This could be very serious," the councillor adds.

"I conduct studies on the pupils to see how they feel about their fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. Every pupil has a file on his family background, and its financial situation," she continues. It is important to draw an accurate assessment of his behavior at school, the councillor points out.

"We have to know who is caring for the pupil. Is it the mother, father, both. We have cases where the children are living with their grandparents because the mother is divorced."

Bad habits such as lying and stealing are noticeable among pupils. "I think that the root causes of these lie in the family. If the child is told to tell the truth, and finds that his father or mother are lying, he will lose

faith and starts to lie," the councillor says.

The atmosphere of the home is always reflected into the classroom. Parental problems leave their marks on the pupils. "The attention of the pupils is diverted and consequently they don't perform well in school and many don't pass their exams," the councillor says. "What is worrying, they keep the problems to themselves and won't tell anyone."

Aggressive behavior in school is also partly related to the economic deprivation. This is coupled with the fact that many of the parents have either lower school certificates or are illiterates. With the majority coming from large families up to 10 children and living in one or two bedroom flats, pupils are lucky enough if they receive some attention let alone the proper care they need.

However, the councillor warns that "if we fail to establish a strong relationship with these parents, I'm sure that the victims will only be their children who are our pupils."

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Chirac gets chilly reception

Continued from page 1

a trip to reassess a French and European role in the Middle East peace process, declared the incident closed shortly afterward. But French diplomats here echoed his earlier statements that the security precautions were a deliberate provocation, a physical reminder to Arabs in East Jerusalem that Israel still considers the sector its territory.

Chirac's threat to leave town might have tempted Israeli officials. Like the United States, they regard his effort to inject France and Europe into the Middle East peace negotiations as meddling and out of bounds—and intolerable were Israel's friends not in such short supply.

Chirac, who was given a hero's welcome in Syria where

his tour began, declared Middle East peace in danger on Saturday and said Europe must join Washington in sponsoring Arab-Israeli negotiations, contributing proposals and not just money.

In a decidedly activist foreign policy since taking office last year, Chirac has sought to project a French, and more generally a European, sphere of influence in the region—part of a broad "Mediterranean" agenda.

He insisted Tuesday that "Europe cannot be content to be the chief provider of funds and the leading trading partner of the Middle East" without a larger political role in the peace process—"cosponsorship," as Chirac calls it.

"The United States is playing a very important role as facilitator ... and I don't think at this

time in such sensitive negotiations it would be wise to introduce another interlocutor," Netanyahu told reporters one day before Chirac arrived.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said in an ill-concealed dismissal that Europeans have a useful role to play on the sidelines... by encouraging the peace process on the economic level.

France has sought to stress its even-handedness as a potential broker, but its markedly more cordial relations with Arab countries across the region, its economic interests in the Middle East, and Chirac's close relations with Arafat have diminished its credibility, at least in Israel and in the United States.

Israel and France jostled over details of Chirac's itinerary, many apparently calculated to demonstrate French support for the Palestinians.

For example, Israel took offense at Chirac's plan to address the elected Palestinian Council but not Israel's parliament—he later adjusted his schedule to include a stop at the Israeli Knesset—and the brevity of his intended visit to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, which Chirac then extended from five minutes to 15.

One Israeli official, speaking anonymously, said, "On the one

hand France would like to be a mediator and a facilitator. On the other hand it takes a strong Arab position."

At a speech at Technion University in Haifa today, Chirac made no secret of that. He said that "only a recognized Palestinian state"—which Netanyahu has vowed to prevent—could "provide Israel with a true partner." He also championed a major concession Netanyahu has ruled out: return of the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since its capture in 1967, to Syria.

A French diplomatic source, speaking anonymously, shrugged off Chirac's chilly reception. "When there's more trouble in the Palestinian territories, (the United States and Israel) will need us. It won't be a question of being invited to participate," he said.

In recent days France and Italy have reiterated their desire to see an expanded European role in the peace process. President Mubarak, President Assad and Palestinian leader Arafat all showed interest in using the Europeans as interlocutors. Such calls coincided with reports of a yet another break down in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on redeployment in Hebron. The talks, mediated by special US envoy Dennis Ross, resumed on Wednesday. ■

Cyprus Airways awards Jordanian travel agents



CYPRUS AIRWAYS held a reception on 22 October, at the Regency Palace Hotel, to award the top 10 travel agents in Jordan for recording the highest Cyprus Airways ticket sales. The agents were presented with certificates of appreciation.

The regional director of Cyprus Airways in Jordan, Mr Awri Madhahin pointed the bridges of cooperation between Cyprus Airways and the travel and tourism agents in Jordan.

The regional director for the Gulf and the Middle East, Mr Stavros Kefriganda and the board member of Cyprus Airways, Doros Gropelos said how pleased they were to meet the travel and tourism agents in Jordan.

Next year, Cyprus Airways will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Travel agents being awarded are: Al Thiqa (Trust) for Travel and Tourism, Modern Tours, Al Rahal, Beit Al Maqdes, Dakak, Al Quds Universal, Atlas, Golden Jubilee, and Pan Pacific. ■

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JORDANIAN PAPERS

Hooliganism invades sports

RIOTS AT football matches have become more frequent recently—and they are not a local phenomenon. Sometimes such riots turn bloody claiming innocent lives. But for Jordanians this week's riot, which took place after the conclusion of a football match between two local teams in Amman, was unlike any other.

Supporters of both teams were prepared for a confrontation right from the very beginning and no sooner that the match ended than hooligans began hurling stones and other missiles at each other. As spectators left the stadium, confusion took place and hooligans began destroying everything in their way, cars, buses, public and private property. Drivers and pedestrians were caught in the middle.

But what made this latest riot stand out is that supporters of both teams seemed to use new attack tactics, cursing dead national figures and eliciting feelings of hatred and bigotry between citizens of the same country.

Politicians and commentators warned that national unity was the main target and not only public property. The hooligans tried to play on sentiments by dividing the supporters into Jordanians of Palestinian origin, most of whom back Al Wehdat team, and East Jordanians who support Al Faisali. Anyone who underestimates the meaning of such innuendoes is either ignorant or living on another planet.

The sad fact is that such divisions are being stamped in the minds of Jordanians today. Cup finals between Al Wehdat and Al Faisali, now symbolize classic competition between Jordanians and Palestinians. At one stage more than eight years ago, the government tried to bury the problem alive by renaming Al Wehdat Club as Al Dafatayn or two banks [representing the two banks of the River Jordan]. At last week's match, East Jordanian supporters provoked the other side by shouting slogans in favor of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and insulting the Palestinian leadership and assassinated Palestinian hero Yahya Ayash, while their opponents responded by insulting Jordanian figures.

Turning a blind eye to this affront to all Jordanians regardless of their origin is catastrophic to say the least. Political figures have a responsibility in addressing this dangerous phenomenon. This is an issue that threatens the national fabric of the country and we should not let few hooligans take the initiative into their own hands.

The Ministry of Youth and both Faisali and Wehdat clubs should work together to find a common ground to convince their supporters that they are members of a civil society.

Economic and social inequities can drive the disenfranchised youth to vent their anger and frustration at what they see as symbols of such inequities, private property such as cars and shops. Such acts underline the yawning gaps between different members of society.

The treatment is not limited to better preparation and to vigilance, nor is it confined to punishing those who incite the public and cause disorders. We must study this phenomenon and look into its deep-seated causes. Hooligans are young and irresponsible people who are driven by confused feelings and suppressed anger. Society must address these causes because hooligans can easily turn into criminals. ■

Raed Al Abed

JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



Royal pardon in offing

A Royal pardon on His Majesty the King's birthday on 14 November is imminent. A number of those in prison as well as those held in administrative detention will be set free. However, it is understood that this time the Royal pardon would be limited but might just include Leith Shbeilat.

Bread decrease, not until next year

It seems that we now have to wait for the two piasters decrease in the price of bread till the beginning of next year according to Minister of Supply, Mr Munir Sobar. We thought that the decrease would be immediate, but nevermind. At least now, we know that the lowering of prices, no matter how small it is will definitely take place.

The government has bought 150,000 tons of wheat at about \$164 per ton. The government said that the price decrease will be by about 25 percent, that is an amazing 2.5 piasters.



Sobar

Football hooliganism: The order of the day

Football hooliganism is a growing phenomenon in Jordan. Last week's match between Al Wihdat and Al Faisali at the Amman International Stadium was a match to remember. Hooliganism began at the outset of the game. Supporters of both teams, who were separated by a metal fence, were already geared up. With about 30,000 in attendance, the fans really got hot under the collar.

The event deteriorated into a slinging match between the two sides with cursing and political innuendos being hurled at each other. Luckily, however, the police acted calmly and kept the crowds under control with a 1-0 win for Al Faisali. However, the real trouble started after the match, with young teenagers wrecking havoc to the shops inside the Sports City and outside.

Young teenagers could be seen throwing bottles at cars, buses and shop windows. All in all 24 buses were damaged. The total cost is estimated at JD 35,000. The football riot created a national outrage and the Prime Minister, Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabariti later inspected the grounds. He described the rioters as irresponsible and lacked sportsmanship.

Witnesses said that broken glass could be seen all the way up to the Regency Hotel the riots that occurred last Friday. The Minister of Youth, Mohammad Daoudieh said these youths are known to the police and they will have to pay for the damages that they have caused.

Missing boys found in Syria

The three children that have gone missing from their homes two weeks ago, were found sound and well. They said that they have crossed the Syrian border for a bit of fun. A major search was conducted by the police since they were reported missing and no doubt that they are now getting a good hiding from their parents. It was thanks to the Syrian authorities which handed them back to the authorities in this country. It is understood that the boys were held in custody since 3rd October.

Rifle shooting: It was bound to happen

This week we have another shooting story. This time it is in sunny Tufleeh. A man and his wife were shot after a family argument. But this quickly turned into a fierce battle. Luckily, their son and daughter escaped the shooting. They were reported missing and no doubt that they are now getting a good hiding from their parents. It was thanks to the Syrian authorities which handed them back to the authorities in this country. It is understood that the boys were held in custody since 3rd October.

Austrian delegation in Amman

An Austrian parliamentary delegation headed by the President of the Austrian National Assembly, Dr Heinz Fischer, are currently visiting Amman. They are here on the invitation of Lower House Speaker, Mr Saad Hayel Al Srouf. The delegation is on a three-day visit that will end on 25 October. They are meeting members from both houses of Parliament.

Another march denied

Jordanians should not express their wishes even if they are peaceful. This is what we understand from the latest action by the Governor of Amman Talaa at Al Nawaisheh. He informed the opposition parties that they may not have permission to march from Parliament to the Prime Ministry. Although the march which was to be held Tuesday under the banner of "In defence of Jerusalem" was to be peaceful and not limited to opposition party members, Mr Al Nawaisheh felt that "the situation did not allow any march from taking place." This might be an indication of what lies ahead. The Islamic Action Front is thinking of holding a demonstration outside the American embassy in support of Abu Marzouq. The courts in the US have just agreed for the second time to hand Abu Marzouq to the Israeli authorities.

Problems already?

Saw Al Arab, that effervescent new weekly is to stop publications after only three issues. No, money does not seem to be the issue in this case, but a question of rapport. The partners now find that they don't seem to be getting well with each other. At the heart of the problem is Yusef Abu Bakr, a partner and the secretary-general of Dua (the Islamic-Christian political movement). Apparently, he started to write a full length page in the newspaper on the opinions of his party. He also made statements suggesting that Saw Al Arab is a political party newspaper. The problems got worse when the newspaper suddenly moved its offices to Wasfi Al Tal Street. According to Al Sabeel there are at least six reporters who are Dua members that write for the newspaper.



Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti with the Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh inspecting damages in Al Hussein Sports City, Saturday, one day after riots broke out at the end of the Al Wihdat-Faisali football match. (See Jordan Week and Jordanian Papers).

Banana producers are up in arms about their plight

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

SOUTH SHOUNA, Jordan Valley—The government's agricultural policy seems to be down in the doldrums. Despite initial promises that the fortunes of agriculture would take an upward turn, farmers are becoming increasingly disillusioned with government promises.

It now seems that the farmer's hard labor is suddenly turning into a nightmare. This time it is not only local competition and the government's unstable marketing policy, it is the outside competitor.

Since the government flooded the market with imported bananas, local producers have been directly affected.

The farmers have become victims with imported bananas hitting the core of their livelihood as the fruit was introduced into the market right at the beginning when the local season was about to start.

They see this as a deliberate action on the part of the government whose job is to protect local production.

Most farmers shifted from tomato growing to banana production five years ago. Growers were lured with debts because of the low price of tomatoes. Thus, for many of these farmers banana production was a way out of their accumulated debts.

Unlike other agricultural produce, banana production yields high profits. "About 16,000 dunums are planted with banana in the country, the total production cost is estimated at JD 20 million," said Mamdouh Al Adwan, chairman of the Jordan Valley Farmers Association (JVFA).

"It would be catastrophic for local producers, if imported bananas continue to flood the market. It is killing farmers in the country," he added, "as far as banana is concerned, we are self-sufficient. The government has to stop importing."

The imported banana is forcing Jordanian farmers to sell at a 50 percent loss. Local banana prices were JD 600 per ton. As the newcomers came on the market, local farmers were forced to sell each ton at between JD 300 to JD 350, that is 65 percent less than international prices.

Today one kilogram of local bananas costs about 400 fils, while a kilo of imported bananas sell for 800 fils.

"Why did they allow imported bananas in the country, while our products could meet all the needs of the local markets and we could even export," asks Fouzan Abdel Hameed.

He has been planting his 20-dunum field with bananas for the past five years. "It is a grave injustice against us. We lost a lot when we planted tomatoes, the government did not protect us like the rest of the countries," he says. "Now it is destroying us by importing bananas."

While the government is claiming that it is a free market and anybody has the right to import, farmers do not object. But they say that "it is the government's duty to create a balance between the local product and the imported one," says Mamdouh Khalid, a farmer whose family plants about 200 dunums of bananas, supporting 15 other families. "We have been suffering since the early 1980s, we will not allow the government to burden us with more debts."

Mr Khalid says that if such a government position continues "it is not only the farmer and agriculture that will be affected, but also the merchants. We will not stand silent."

Merchants huy from the farmers' green bananas and store them in their warehouses until they are ripe.

Mr Abdel Fatah Qamhawi, a merchant, expressed his sadness to see imported banana flood the market. "It is a risky business. I am paying JD 300 to JD 350 per ton, in addition to the high cost of transport. In the central market we face another marketing challenge as a result of the oversupply," he says. Consumers seem to go for imported bananas although they are more expensive, Mr Qamhawi adds.



Banana production is a costly business. A plantation will take 18 months before it starts to yield.

The banana season is the longest starting from October to May the following year. There is no produce in June, July and August. "If the government wants to really help us then it would only import during these months," says Mr Khalid.

However, the government is saying that the huge banana farms exhaust the country's already poor water resources. But farmers do not agree.

"If we have a generous rainfall we plant more banana but if the rainfall is poor I will be forced to destroy part of my banana crop," Mr Khalid said, showing a one month bill of JD 2000 for electricity used for draining water from the family's arid soil well.

Mr Adwan believes that the issue of imported bananas is a government decision, and has nothing to do with any ministry in particular. "I talked with the Ministries of Trade, Supply and

Agriculture. They all tell me that they are not involved in this issue."

Mr Adwan, who is also member of the Jordanian Importers Association, presented suggestions to the government to protect local production. He said "imported bananas should cease during the local production season. Increasing custom fees is another way of providing a hedge against competition."

Efforts to contain the banana dilemma are extensive. A farmers' delegation headed by Mr Sultan Al Adwan visited Parliament last week. They met with the Upper and Lower House Speakers, Mr Ahmad Al Lowzi and Saad Hayel Al Srouf. Both confirmed their deep concern and promised they will follow the case with the concerned authorities.

The farmers and the JVFA are planning to send a strongly-worded statement to the Prime Minister, and are seeking to meet with His Majesty King Hussein.

People & Politics

Government on tourism: Putting its money where its mouth is

More than 1.1 million tourists visited Jordan last year, according to Ministry of Tourism reports and the tourism sector yielded about \$700 million in 1995. These figures are set to increase this year and the government is again talking about "activating" the role of the private sector in building and operating new tourism projects.

While such statements have been made by other governments many times before, we have a feeling that this time they mean what they say. For a very simple reason, the government cannot finance any of the mega projects for tourism such as the development of the Dead Sea region. It needs private investments. And for foreign and local partners to commit, legislative and infrastructural reforms are past due.

It is here where the government responsibility lies and for it to involve the private sector it must, as the American saying goes, put its money where its mouth is. A number of investors have expressed their desire to invest in Dead Sea tourism projects, including the building of resorts, health farms and luna parks. But they cannot take the risk when the area lacks the basic infrastructure such as electricity, sewage, roads and water.

These projects need a lot of money and the Amman Economic Summit, which was held last November, was supposed to get the necessary funding from countries and regional banks. But political uncertainties and squabbling, shortage of funds among other reasons have made it very difficult to translate the ambitious infrastructural projects that Jordan proposed during the summit into reality.

The government is recognizing that tourism is among the most reachable "fruits" of Middle East peace. Notwithstanding the setback this sector has suffered lately as a result of the crisis in the peace negotiations and agreement implementation, long-term prospects are indeed lucrative.

But as the government is looking for international investors and financiers, it must move swiftly to remove remaining legislative obstacles. It should also adopt concrete steps to make the Jordanian private sector a major partner and a leader in tourism development. The question is will this government collect its efforts and show its determination to change traditional views of its role in the tourism sector?

Talk shows lose sight of their aim

Political talk shows are not new to Jordan. JTV and Radio Jordan have been presenting such programs for years. All are tailored along American talk shows—minus the zest! The latest to join a line of political talk shows is the bilingual *Abdath and Shakhshiat* (Events and Personalities) presented by Dr Samir Mutaweh every Monday. The show hosts journalists and officials who question important figures, often via satellite, such as former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres while, as pundits usually do, stating their own views and beliefs for the record! But unlike other talk shows, this one is a combination of "Meet the Press", "This Week with David Brinkley", "Larry King Live", "The McLaughlin Group", "Crossfire" and "Good Morning America" put together and all packed into one hour.

The result is spaghetti journalism! The last thing we need today is to send a barrage of sound bites to an already confused viewer. What the program ends up doing, through its eager host who wears too many hats for one show, is to leave the viewer wondering about who was being interviewed and who was asking the questions. Pity we don't have program ratings in this country.

Which brings us to a spreading phenomenon here in Jordan where journalists become the subject of their own stories—pontificating about this government policy or that one, showering praise here and distributing blame there. Not that this is unconventional, but it would seem a little disparaging, and sometimes almost condescending, that instead of investigating public minds and public issues, journalists are getting busy echoing their views and ideas.

Dr Mutaweh should be congratulated for trying to present a quality current affairs program. But great ideas are often simple ones. We suggest that he stops pontificating and starts asking plain questions in one language only. That should make his program a more professional one.

On-line information system for CBJ

AMMAN (Petra)—In order to provide economic information for decision makers and private and public sector researchers, the National Information Center (NIC) has established a collective information system for economic information at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

"CBJ has developed the necessary programs to distribute this information through direct contact with computer using the same techniques used in calling Internet," according to head of NIC Dr Yusef Nuseir.

Dr Nuseir said that the new system will provide information in many fields such as CBJ monthly statistics report, information about CBJ, information on general finance and monetary system, Jordan's foreign trade and investments, prices and economic studies.

Dr Nuseir said that establishing the system comes within the plans of the center to establish national information system that connects information production and collection centers and coordinates their work in order to facilitate the job of decision makers and researchers. To receive such information a user must have a micro computer, special software to retrieve information as is the case with the Internet in addition to a phone link and a modem. ■

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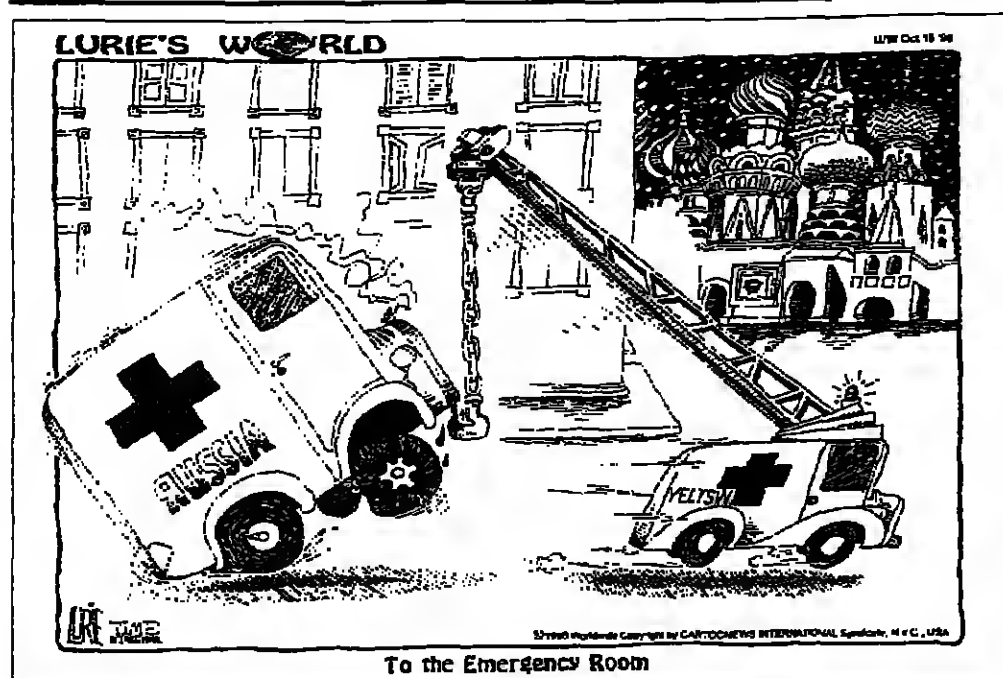
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To the Emergency Room

Our Say . . .

Welcome Mr Chirac

NOT EVERY head of state is a statesman and not every statesman is a great leader. President Jacques Chirac is both. We say this as we join millions of Jordanians in welcoming him to our country as a friend and an ally. In the course of his presidency, Mr Chirac has proved on more than one occasion that France, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a major partner in the European Community, is a country of noble ideals and lofty principles.

In his second visit to the Middle East region in less than a year, Mr Chirac is trying to redress the great imbalance that the Middle East peace process has suffered from right from the start. By calling for a new European role in the peace process, Mr Chirac voices the opinion of many leaders in Europe and the Middle East.

France and other European countries can contribute immensely to salvage the now beleaguered process that finds itself hostage to internal US politics and the extremist views of the Israeli premier.

Mr Chirac's call on Israelis to accept the creation of an independent Palestinian state is truly an historical event. He knew that his call will not win him many friends inside the Israeli political establishment, but he made it anyway. He spoke of a just and lasting peace, for both the Israelis and the Palestinians, and called on all parties to honor their agreements and commitments.

Mr Chirac's courage has renewed our hopes in this region. His visit to the liberated Palestinian territories is an unforgettable gesture of appreciation and recognition to the Palestinian people. His walk through the cobbled streets of Old Jerusalem and his visit to Muslim and Christian holy places underlines the city's Arab identity and its special role and importance in a final and just peace settlement.

For Israel, Mr Chirac's visit was a grim reminder that the world is no longer marching to the Zionist tune. For the Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular, it raised hopes that a just and balanced formula for a lasting peace in the Middle East could be attainable after all.

It is only natural that the United States and Israel would rebuff Mr Chirac's insistence on a more effective European contribution to the Middle East's future. It will not be easy to change the rules of political engagement in the region. But Europe has a strong case. Whatever happens in the region has a direct bearing on Europe. The Europeans cannot be expected to bankroll development projects in the region when they have little or nothing to say on its political future.

But most importantly, Mr Chirac's statesmanship and great leadership should inspire Arab leaders to come out and contribute to the shaping of their own region. His calls and efforts, along those of his European partners, will fizzle out if the Arabs stay aloof and shy away from insisting on an expanded role for Europe. They too must take a courageous stand.

Letters to the Editor

Clearing points of misunderstandings

To The Editor,

I am writing to you regarding the article "Jordan insists on practical measures to salvage peace" (The Star 17-23 October). It is not my intention to engage in polemics with the writer of this article about his sharp criticism of Israeli policies, but merely to correct some of the inaccurate information included in his article.

1. The Israeli government did not "open a tunnel under Al Aqsa Mosque." The tunnel in question does not even lie near Al Aqsa Mosque, nor does it run under Al Haram Al Sharif. It is located completely outside the walls of the Haram. Furthermore, Israel did not "open" this tunnel—it has been open to tourists for more than eight years. The only change made was the opening of an exit to the street at the other end of the tunnel.

2. Israel recognized Jordan's role not out of a desire "to create a wedge between the Jordanians and the Palestinians," but in line with its commitments under the peace treaty and as a matter of common sense.

3. It is not true that Prime Minister Kabirli "refused to meet the Israeli Ambassador." Even in times of disagreements between the two governments, channels of communication with the Jordanian leadership have always been open, courteous and effective. No request for an audience was ever refused.

4. It is not true that "Israel delays the implementation of its trade agreement with Jordan" and imposes obstacles on this trade. The trade agreements gives a preferential status to Jordanian exporters, granting them customs reductions ranging between 20 percent to 100 percent, while Israeli goods are given only a symbolic reduction of up to 10 percent. This agreement is now fully in force. It is true that in the course of implementation certain difficulties have emerged, but those are being removed, one by one, by the Joint Trade Committee which works consistently to facilitate trade relations.

Shimon Shamir
Israeli Ambassador
in Amman

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A view from America

Too narrow, too defensive, too polite?

By Carrie Nelle Moya
Star US correspondent

Bravo to Bob Dole! Well, almost.... In the second and last presidential debate on October 16, except for a few insinuations regarding the character of Clinton, Dole refrained from plunging into the mire which nearly all his advisors are said to have urged him to do. When he did slide in some comments of personal reference, he appeared uncomfortable. And certainly the live audience was more interested in domestic and foreign affairs than in alleged individual affairs.

To Clinton's credit, he did not seize the tiny pieces of bait that were offered. He chose to ignore the insinuations and remain presidential.

Yet as this is being written, pundits are declaring this debate to be as uninspiring as the first one on 6 October. But in truth it was rare and refreshing to have two men of stature, each of whom is respected regardless of party affiliation, choose to disagree in a civilized manner.

Which prompts the question, are American voters confusing civility with boredom? For a few years now, the public has vigorously criticized the down-and-dirty campaign tactics which have become more

and more commonplace. So true is this that in spite of the myriad complaints against such tactics, it appears that this is what the public clamors have. Why else do we continue to hear the comments that the 1996 Presidential campaign has been so very boring? Why else are the televised debate ratings so low?

One of the most refreshing on-going scenarios in the various nation-wide campaigns of this political season has been the civilized-to-almost-sterile senatorial race in Massachusetts. Incumbent Democratic Senator John Kerry and Republican Governor Bill Weld are in head-to-head combat that, to date, has remained above the fray and muck of what has

come to be so acceptable. It was uniquely pleasing to have one political analyst answer the question as to what would happen if Weld launched a personal attack on Kerry with, "Mrs Weld probably would not let him back into the house." Both Kerry and Weld are patricians with patrician wives and patrician educations. This campaign has been widely noted by the press because of its lack of nastiness.

This in itself is frustrating as it is the very thing the public has demanded, yet it is the very thing the public dubs "boring." A boring campaign often leads to low voter turnout, though as this is a presidential election year, one can hope the percentage of registered voters actually going to the voting booths will be relatively substantial.

I say "Hats off" to the two Massachusetts contenders, whose behavior has been admirable. If one or both should stoop to mud-slinging between the time this is written and the election on 5 November, it will be a step away from civility.

And so we turn again to the presidential election. On the morning of 16 October and second debate between Clinton and Dole, perennial Republican presidential wannabe and ultra-rightist Pat Buchanan appeared on the NBC Today Show denouncing what he called Dole's first debate

tactics as being "Too narrow, too defensive, too polite." Further, he urged Dole to attack Clinton on various and sundry issues. Indeed, if the press is to be believed, most if not all of Dole's advisors have told him he must become an attack dog for the remainder of the campaign.

Fortunately for his own and our nation's dignity, Dole came close to but did not heed this advice in the final debate. If he chooses to continue the personal, slanderous attacks which he began in his speeches immediately following the first debate—and all indications are he will—then what can we expect in the various strata of our society regarding "family values" issues, most particularly the direct application of practicing what is preached? If our leaders not just accept but condone public verbal attacks on their rivals, is this not but the first step towards physical violence which will be manifest both in the home and on the streets?

Do we mean what we say when we demand an end to the beyond-just-mud-slinging campaigns? Evidently not. Evidently we unconsciously (if not overtly) enjoy the blood-n-mud.

If we have become a nation of tabloid journalism, who is in a position to criticize?

Prince calls for a human approach to politics



PARIS—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said last Monday that comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by honoring all agreements expressed in the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 And 338, under the formula of land for peace.

The Prince said in a speech delivered at Sorbonne University in Paris that "if the bulk of public opinion in Israel support the notion of peace based on agreed principles, as it does; and if the peoples of the Arab world still yearn for comprehensive, just, and lasting peace, as they do; then parties in the region will have to look beyond day-to-day events towards this long-term objective and deal with the situation at hand on that basis."

The Crown Prince stressed in his address, the fact that "conflict in the past had been the ruin of the region, and that it must not be the way of the future."

However, Prince Hassan also warned that the underlying problems of the region must be addressed.

"I do not believe that there will be another Arab-Israeli war. But any scenario which fails to address the underlying problems of the region would be equally disastrous. A return to the no-war, no-peace status that preceded the present peace process would destroy the economies of the region no less surely than a war," he added.

The Prince emphasized the need for the political process of negotiation to be backed up by the economic process of peace-building, as embodied in the MENA summit process, as well as the cultural process of reconciliation and mutual understanding.

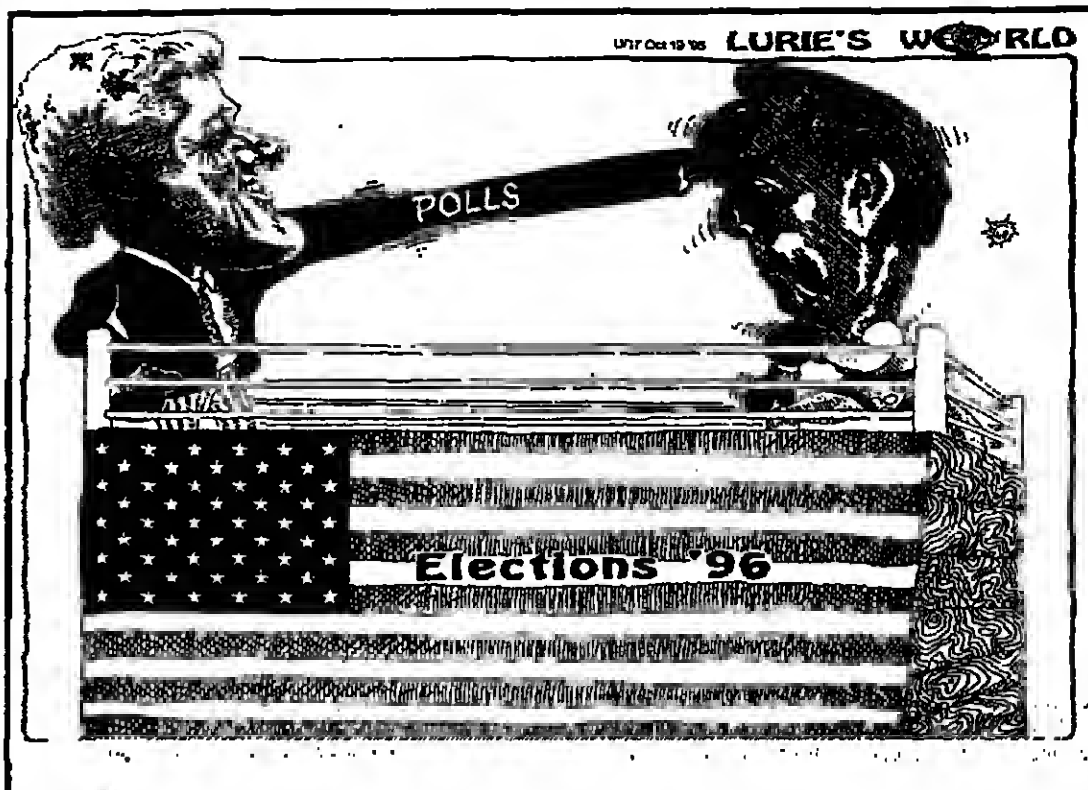
"Instead of subsidiarity, a credible regional discourse would build consensus," he said adding that "it would seek to improve living conditions for all across the region without discrimination or exclusion, on the basis of a genuine understanding of our interdependence on a range of inter-connected issues."

The Crown Prince pointed out that clusters of issues such as "water, energy, and the environment, health, education, and civil society, the spectrum of human rights must all be addressed comprehensively."

He said that all such issues would reflect on "the living conditions and human dignity of individuals." Adding that our interest should be "in anthropo-politics, the politics where people matter, rather than the politics of materialism and expediency."

The Prince expressed surprise at the disparity between the European political idiom, of promoting democracy in the Middle East, and the preference of dealing at the same time with totalitarian regimes.

Responding to one of the questions regarding the status of Jerusalem, the Prince reiterated His Majesty's support for the PNA, and called for the resurrection of the consciousness of Jerusalem with a serious academic and spiritual evaluation of the city's importance to the three great monotheistic faiths, in a separate manner to the political and municipal sovereignty over the city.



The last of the Bedu:

Self in another disguise

The Last of the Bedu: In Search of the Myth, by Michael Asher, London, Penguin, Viking, pp320

Reviewed by Sarah Weeler

MICHAEL ASHER has gone on a quest for the last of the Bedu, "the nomadic Arabs who have

placed such a dramatic part in the history of Western imagination." The heart of his book is a camel trek undertaken with a Bedu rock-salt collector called Sehni. The pair marched 1,000 miles across the Western Desert from the Mediterranean to Upper Egypt, passing through the Great Erg, a sand sea more treacherous (though smaller) than the Empty Quarter.

It is true, as Asher points out, that for centuries the desert Arab has haunted the Western psyche. He became chivalry incarnate, and "all that was best about the Bedouin, the Orientalists believed, came to him from his poverty and from the utter hardship of his life." Western attitudes to the Bedu express the eternal conflict between the nomad and the settler.

Asher has written about the Bedu, and Arabia, before: he is something of an expert. He has a finely tuned sense of history, and is quite gripping on tribal genealogies and the tissue of half-remembered legends that form the origins of race. But his text is not a dedicated work of scholarship. It is alive with emotion, and he is better at describing the psychic landscape than the sandy one. He gets quite Eliot-esque about time present and time past being present in time future, and enjoys musing about the power of the desert on the mind (his and everyone else's). I would have liked more of this.

Despite his determination not to be in thrall to the men who went before him, the great Arabists themselves emerge as protagonists in his

text: Doughty, Lawrence. Thesiger and the other myth-makers who have romanticized the Bedu as a race which has preserved the primeval innocence of mankind.

Especially, Thesiger, the traveller's Arabist. (Asher's biography of Wilfred Thesiger is in print in a Penguin paperback). The descriptions of camel treks in *The Last of the Bedu* irresistibly invite comparison with those of Thesiger, a writer incapable of a clumsy phrase. It is difficult to imagine him using the verb "hunker down".

like Asher does, or descending to chapter titles like "east of Aden". Thesiger looms over this book like an Old Testament prophet.

Whereas Thesiger bewailed the nascent modernization and settlement of the nomads as a tragedy, and some Orientalists have condemned the apparent acquiescence of the Bedu in their own fate as "betrayal," Asher isn't so categorical. He sees the shift to cultivation and cars as another phase in a seamless 4,000-year-old wave of adaptation, and he puts his case convincingly. "They too," he writes of the Bedu near the end "must have the knowledge that there exists the possibility of an alternative life."

Asher can be extremely moving. He says he is "thrilled" by the desert, and conveys a feeling of timelessness that transcends even the sense of mortality. He does not seek to conceal his own private longing for that lost Atlantis within us: "They [the Bedu] had a sense of belonging in this unfathomable universe which we rational people will never know." When he senses an imaginary presence among the shifting dunes, it makes him think of the hooded brown figure who stalks *The*

Waste Land. It is a more apposite reference than Asher imagines, as Eliot's lines were inspired by Ernest Shackleton as he trekked through the greatest desert of them all—Antarctica.

Besides the one epic camel journey, Asher roams around the Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Muscat and other parts of the Gulf. The pages of his book are signposted with the familiar landmarks of desert travel—the death of a camel, the possible discovery of lost oases of history, sore feet and the interminable trails of bleached bones. As the book is not structured around the linear journey, its dynamic is the quest itself—Asher's desire to find out what's left of the traditional Bedu way of life. Naturally enough, he finds that the answers are "not much." The Bedu haven't quite launched themselves into the T-shirt market yet, but

Asher does see sign offering "genuine Bedouin coffee."

He meets a lot of people and allows them to speak for themselves. This is all very admirable, but he has a tedious habit of simply presenting great chunks of what they say in direct speech. You get the impression, sometimes, that you are reading his research notes.

Michael Asher rises above the competition in his determination to connect. "The Bedu are not separate, but merely ourselves in another guise," he concludes. I liked all that very much. He ends the book by suggesting that deep down, his quest was flawed. "There are no last things. Individuals die, cultures change, life evolves, flowing always against the direction of time. As entities we wither, but as a process we continue. We shall survive."

LITERARY REVIEW





POLAND

International investments increase in Poland

ONE OF the major characteristics of development is the level of investment, both domestic and foreign. These relate to the levels of savings and level of confidence of the foreign investors.

Poland is given the thumbs up by investors. The government's pruning of the bureaucracy and cutting down the public sector is seen as an altogether good thing to attract foreign investments. Although Poland has a relatively high external debt at around \$42 billion, through such measures as restructuring and "Buy Back," it has managed to gain the confidence of international investors.

Direct foreign investments between 1990-96 is estimated at \$11 billion. In 1995 about \$2.5 billion were invested in the Polish economy. This is nearly twice as much as it was in 1994. The Polish Foreign Investment agency says that as much as \$3 billion could be invested in Poland this year.

What this means is that more and more international companies are gaining greater confidence in the economy of Poland. Companies from a number of countries, such as Germany, France, Italy, the United States, Korea and Japan are setting up shop in Poland. Korea's Daewoo is establishing a motor factory at \$1.5 billion by the end of the decade. General Motors from America has promised a new investment and the Japanese Matsushita is investing \$60 million in setting up a new television plant.

Although Poland has the largest trading relations with Germany, it is United States companies that are coming in droves to the country. US investors have set up a total of 53 companies at a capital of \$1.815 billion. This is followed by multinationals from Switzerland, UK, Holland and Belgium with investment at \$912 million with a commitment to invest a further \$194 million. Germany comes next with investments at \$614 million, Italy at \$390 million and Holland at \$362 million.

Coming to Poland

It's relatively easy to set up a business in Poland. A foreign business or a national does not require any special permit to engage in a limited liability or a joint stock company. However, foreigners must have a permit to:

- To operate a seaport or airport
 - To conduct real estate operations
 - To operate in military industry not subject to licensing
 - To engage in wholesale trading of imported consumer goods
 - To render legal services
- The only area of business that is closed to foreign investors is that concerned with gambling and lotteries.

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Polish economy

A big emerging market

THE MARK of a high-powered society is measured by its economic development. Poland is today recognized as one of the "Big Emerging Markets" that has tremendous potential. Taking the bull by the horn so to speak, Poland was transformed from a command to a decentralized economy, characterized by the free-market, privatization, and the attraction of overseas capital.

This transformation process started in 1990 and began to bear fruit soon after. Opening up the economy was only matched by a new "get up and go" mentality that stresses individual initiative with an excited sense of purpose.

Although the transformation of the economy lead to hiccups, and bottlenecks in the initial stages, something that was only natural because of the unprecedented changes involved, it soon overcome these. Having cut away all the fat, the Polish economy today is more lean, dynamic and varying to go.

Seen as the fastest growing

economy in Europe, by 1995 Poland registered a seven percent growth rate in the Gross Domestic Product. This is a two percent increase on the 1994 figure of five percent. Forecasts for 1996 look bright, and are seen to be stabilizing somewhat at six percent.

The economic sectors also registered unprecedented growth rates with the manufacturing sector having the largest slice of the cake. Setting the pace, the share of the manufacturing sector is about 80 percent of the Polish economy. Last year industrial production increased by 9.4 percent. Furthermore, its total contribution to the GDP was 40 percent.

Manufacturing industry is extensive and include everything from shipbuilding (which has enough orders well past the year 2000), steel and aluminium production, car production and machine tools, heavy electrical equipment and transmission systems, medical, optical and precision instrument as well as a chemical industry. Poland manufactures clothes,

furs leathers, footwear, woolens, plastics, cement, refrigerators, automatic washers and TV sets.

The list is endless. What you have here is not the bric-a-brac of industry but a well thought out system of both heavy and light manufacturing, that is not only formidable in relation to other industries in the region, but is capable of competing with the most highly developed countries of western Europe and America. This is because of the know-how and more importantly the lower wages that it can offer.

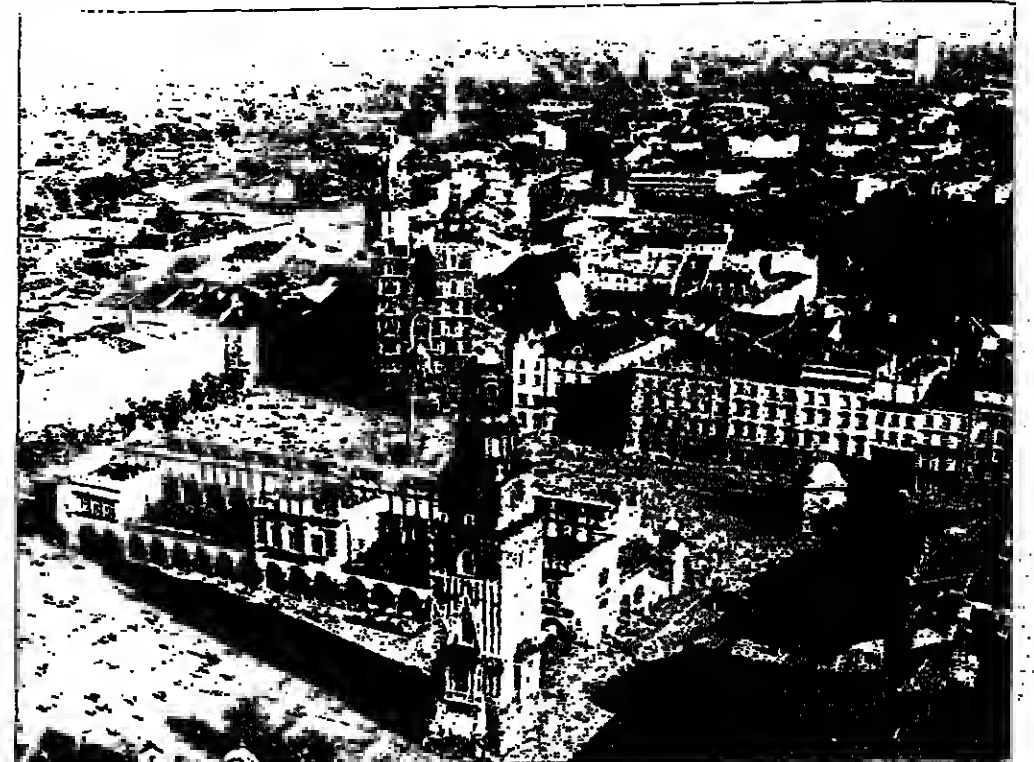
Besides manufacturing, Poland has other potential sectors. Agriculture is one of the mainstay of the economy. Having been hit by a series of bad harvests in 1994, the agricultural sector recovered in 1995 with increases in livestock and cereal production.

Agriculture was worst hit by the transition stage from state-dominated to private agriculture enterprises and needed a longer time to adjust. For one thing farmers were too poor to capitalize

agriculture and needed both more time and state subsidy to buy machinery to improve production. Last year could be seen as the beginning of an upward trend in the fortunes of agriculture.

But besides these there is also the construction sector which is a growing market, the energy sector that consist of mining and extractive industry, pulp and paper industries and the growing telecommunications sector.

This was considerably underdeveloped in the



early '90s. Whereas in 1993, there was 11 telephone subscribers for every 100 people, by 1995 this increased by 50 percent to 15 users to every 100.

Poland has a great potential service industry that includes banking, insurance and of course tourism. The last has developed into a huge market. With its interesting landscape, mountains, health spas and medieval castles, Poland has become a major tourist attraction.

Whereas in 1990 only 18 million visited the country, by 1995 the figure jumped to 75 million, 19 million of those were tourists. What's more important is that it has generated \$6.5 billion.

Experts argue that the tourism industry could be developed further still, with more investments. Polish managers

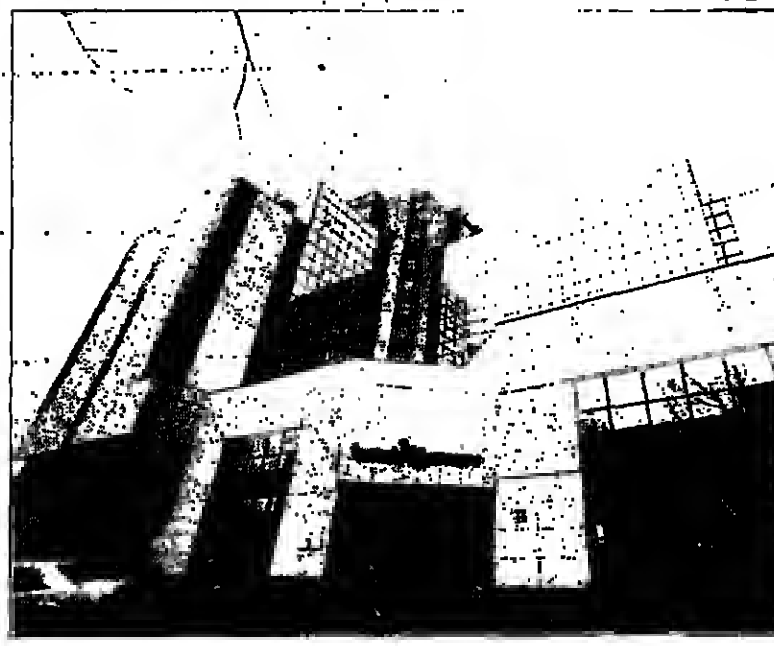
have already begun adopting western principles of management, especially since the majority of those tourists come from western Europe. However, tourism is a vast reserve pool that could still be tapped and Poland does have great potential in that field.

From this, it can be argued that Poland has a sound industrial infrastructure that is linked to the whole of Europe. Its geographical location and developed system rail and road network linking all the major Polish cities with the rest of Europe.

Poland naturally belongs to Europe. The countries of the European Union serve as its major trading partner. More than 34 percent of its exports go to Germany, whereas Poland exports about 24 percent of its goods from that country. Poland has also trade

relations with Italy, France, Britain, Spain, Holland and Belgium. It also have still trade links with the former eastern bloc countries, but these seem to be minimal, maintaining the strongest trade links with Russia and the Czech Republic.

Despite the potential, Poland has a number of obstacles that must be surmounted. Its level of inflation this year at 21 percent is far too high. Nevertheless it is following a downward trend having come down from more than 60 percent in 1994 and 29.5 percent in 1995. What is worrying about inflation is that it creates an upward pressure on wages, diminishing their value and great loss in savings. That is why it must be controlled.



Privatization leads to a more dynamic economy

PRIVATIZATION OF the economy is a catchword in Polish common parlance. The economy was completely overturned since 1990 when the country started its reform program. Private corporations are now the backbone of the economy existing in virtually every sector. What is interesting is the speed which the privatization process is going through.

By 1995 the number of registered companies reached 2.2 million. This increased from 1.9 million in 1993. Quite a few of these are of course newly created, reflecting the new atmosphere of privatization. This was the new Poland characterized by a free-market economy.

However, what is interesting is the number of state companies that had been put in private hands. By 1995 alone, over 1600 public companies

were denationalized. Today a lot more state enterprises are awaiting the transformation into the private sector.

However, today the private sector contributes greatly to the Gross National Product. By 1995, 56 percent of the total GNP came from the private sector, in 1990 the figure was only 31 percent.

By the end of 1995, the share of private enterprises in total industrial production exceeded 44 percent, in construction over 87 percent, in retail trade about 92 percent, in exports about 58 percent and in imports about 70 percent.

The private sector is also the biggest employer in the country. The percentage consistently grew since 1990. By 1996, it is estimated that 64 percent of the workforce was employed in private companies. The figure was 62.6 per-

cent in 1995 and 58.9 percent in 1994. In 1990 the 48.9 percent were employed in the burgeoning private sector. What is important to remember is that the majority of these worked in small scale enterprise. In contrast, the public sector have come to employ slightly more than a third of the total workforce in 1996.

Despite the speed of privatization, there are those who criticize the pace, arguing that it must be a lot quicker to compete in the world markets. While they may have a point, the state has to weigh all the pros and cons before it embarks on the sale of important and strategic industries. This is why the process takes some time.

The issue of privatization is a conscious strategy that was embarked upon in 1990. There are two methods for this: The

capital method and the direct method. The first method is privatization through stages. First, state corporations are turned into joint stock companies owned by the state treasury and then these stock is sold to private investors. The capital method is used when the government wants to sell large public enterprises. By 1995 only 142 companies were put into private hands through this method.

The direct method on the other hand applies to medium and small companies. This is sometimes called the fast track program. Its a simple way of privatization. By the end of 1995, 1,358 enterprises were included in this process.

Denationalization is a long-term strategy and Poland will continue to embark on such a process to make its economy more competitive.



Polish trade fair held in Amra hotel on 27 October

ON 27 October there will be a Polish promotional business meeting at the Amra Hotel. Many companies representing the different branches of the Polish industry are taking part

in this now yearly event. Enterprises representing the agricultural and foodstuffs sector, metallurgy and engineering, electronic, car, chemicals, wood, textiles sectors as well as

medical equipment suppliers will be taking part.

Famous Polish names such as Stalexport (biggest steel exporter), Argos (agriculture and food processing), Gillette Poland (razor blades), Elektrim (power plants and power generation), Andoria (diesel engines), DGT (telecommunications) and the Automotive industry will be becoming acquainted with the Jordanian market.

Other companies include Minex (cement), Kotlomontex (Technical components), Textilpex (textiles), Optex (textured polyester yarns), and Bolton (medical equipments). In this field there are two other companies, Varimex and Ascor which will be taking part in this trade fair.

Today, there are 21 Jordanian companies who represent Polish products. The trade fair will show the diversity of Polish industry and furthermore the efforts of Polish companies in expanding their horizons to

more distant fields.

Although the Jordanian market seems to be small and the trade relations between the two countries is relative, it has great potential to develop. Jordan-Polish trade relations is improving each year. This year Poland has restarted to import phosphate from Jordan for its own factories. Already it has imported phosphate at a value of \$2.5 million.

However, Polish imports from Jordan has reached \$6 million. As well as phosphate, these include machinery and other chemicals as well as other miscellaneous items.

Polish exports to Jordan are also increasing at a rapid pace. This year it exported to Jordan goods to the tune of 10 million. These include Star trucks and Polooz cars, paper and newsprint, glassware as well as textiles. The biggest item, however, is steel and machinery. These account for \$8 million of total exports.

Trade liberalization, necessary for greater exports

AS POLAND embarked on the economic transformation process, she gave a great deal of thought to trade liberalization. This is essential if a country is to move to a free-market economy. Foreign trade and exports have since then become the lynchpin.

Foreign businessmen are becoming more confident in trading with the country, regarding Poland as a serious partner, and one with a lot of goods to export.

Polish commodities have two distinct characteristics: Competitiveness and high quality. This is slowly being recognized because businessmen are slowly seeking to polish the image of Polish products.

This is being carried out in a number of ways such as the promotion of events, meetings, conferences. These also are taking place on the governmental and private levels.

As part of the introduction of a new image, there is a series of intergovernmental conferences taking places in Warsaw.

An increasing number of enterprises are given ISO 9000 certification. Although imports have surpassed exports last year, these import commodities

are of a "re-exportable" nature. The idea now is to increase production of commodities to an even higher level.

In the past Poland has been known for the export of "turnkey projects." These include the building of electricity plants, ships and factories.

These will continue but they are being revamped according to the country's new market philosophy. There is a new system of making credit more easier for export transactions. This is coupled with a system of guarantees and insurance of transactions.

There are very little regulations involved on foreigners who want to invest in Poland. But again the image has to be changed. People still think of the country as run on the old basis of centralism. They are not really aware of the tremendous changes that have taken place: Trade liberalization, decentralization and an economy free from bureaucracy.

Although today two-thirds of Polish products go to west European countries, Polish exporters are looking to further their markets to the Far East, North America, and Latin America.

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Nobel winner creates universal poetry amid chaos

By Dean E. Murphy
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

ZAKOPANE, Poland—Three weeks ago, poet Wislawa Szymborska left her modest two-room apartment in the southern Polish city of Krakow to escape the noise and confusion of a remodeling. She slipped away to this pristine mountain resort, a favorite of Polish artists and writers, and took a small room—no bath and no telephone—on the second floor of a clubhouse reserved for authors.

Szymborska, a retiring woman with wispy gray hair who cherishes her solitude, passed the days quietly, working on her latest poem. Everything was going according to plan, she says, until 3 October, when the world "came crashing down on me." It was on that day that the Swedish Academy in Stockholm announced that the relatively unknown Szymborska had won the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature.

The award came as a surprise to Szymborska—and most everyone else in Poland—not because she is considered unworthy, but because her poetry speaks mostly to universal themes rather than the parochial political subjects that have distinguished Eastern European verse since World War II.

Unlike the last Polish poet to win the prize—Czeslaw Milosz in 1980—Szymborska was not a bold, Communist-era dissident; nor did the timing of the honor coincide with a seminal event in Polish history—1980 was the year of the Gdansk shipyard uprising. And unlike the presumed Polish front-runner for this year's prize, poet Zbigniew Herbert, Szymborska's verse is most admired for its "finely chiseled diction," as the Swedish Academy noted, not its ponderous political metaphors.

That is not to say Szymborska, 73, has escaped the clutches of politics during her 50-year career. In fact, politics provided an immovable backdrop to her work from the very beginning. Several of her early poems glorified communism—a dark period that she now disavows—and she spent most of her later career working for publications that firmly placed her in the anti-Communist camp of liberal thinkers. Under martial law in the early 1980s,

she published poems under a pseudonym in Polish underground and exile publications. But since breaking with Stalinism in the early 1950s, Szymborska has steadfastly resisted ideology-driven verse, instead using her own powers of observation to tackle subjects one by one.

A widow with no children, Szymborska despises crowds and public appearances, and refuses to give readings of her poems. Her main contact with the outside world is through a longtime newspaper column, "Non-Compulsory Reading." In the sanctity of this favorite creative retreat, she spoke openly about her life's work and the burden of instant fame.

Why is your privacy so important to you?
Otherwise, I couldn't write. I cannot imagine any writer who would not fight for his peace and quiet. Unfortunately, poetry is not born in noise, in crowds, or on a bus. There have to be four walls and the certainty that the telephone will not ring. That's what writing is all about.

Some of your poems are introspective, others present broad political manifestos. Do you write with a mission?
I don't believe I have a mission. Sometimes, I really have a spiritual need to say something more general about the world and, sometimes, something personal. I usually write for the individual reader—though I would like to have many such readers. There are some poets who write for people assembled in big rooms, so they can live through something collectively. I prefer my reader to take my poem and have a one-on-one relationship with it.

Is your poetry an expression of vanity?
If you mean, is it a form of exhibitionism, probably it is. I

have never really thought about it seriously, but telling one's feelings to unknown people is a little bit like selling one's soul. On the other hand, it brings great happiness. All of us have sad things happen to us in our lifetimes. In spite of everything, when those terribly horrible things happen to a poet, he or she can at least describe them. There are other people who, in a way, are sentenced to live through such experiences in silence.

Some critics describe your poetry as detached and aloof, yet you consider it private and personal. Can it be both?
Each of us has a very rich

nature and can look at things objectively, from a distance, and at the same time, can have something more personal to say about them. I am trying to look at the world, and at myself, from many different points of view. I think many poets have this duality.

Why did you start writing poetry?
It just happened. Maybe it was the atmosphere in my home. It was an intellectual kind of house, where we talked a lot about books. We read a lot. Especially my father. I started writing poems when I was five years old. If I wrote a poem—it was children's poetry

—that my father liked, then he reached into his pocket and gave me (some money). I can't remember exactly how much, but it was a lot to me.

In your early years, you wrote in the social-realist style, praising communism. Why?
It is very difficult to explain. Now, people don't understand the situation then. I really wanted to save humanity, but I chose the worst possible way. I did it out of love for mankind. Then I came to understand that you should not love mankind, but rather like people. Like, but not love. I don't love humanity, I like individuals. I try to understand people, but I cannot offer salvation to them.

That was a very hard lesson for me. It was a mistake of my youth. It was made in good faith, and, unfortunately, a lot of poets have done the same. Later, they would sit in prison for changing their ideology. I was, fortunately, spared that fate, because I never had the nature of a real political activist.

How has the Solidarity revolution changed your poetry?
As it hasn't influenced my writing. Beginning in 1954-55 (following the death of Josef Stalin), I already started thinking differently—the same way I think now. Since then, I haven't changed the way I look at the world. After all of those mistakes, after all that I lived through in the early '50s, my thinking was altered for good. My life as a citizen of this country has changed dramatically since Solidarity, but my life as a poet has not.



Peres speaks of what 'has been a very sad year in my life'

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

TEL AVIV—Sipping hot tea from a water glass in the East European style of his youth, Shimon Peres sat deep in an armchair and spoke of what "has been a very sad year in my life."

The former prime minister saw his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, gunned down "practically before my eyes." He stepped through the grisly scenes of four suicide bombings amid a doomed election campaign. He guided his Labor Party to defeat at the polls for the fifth time.

Inspiring the Ori Azulatz to title his new biography "The Man Who Didn't Know How to Win."

All that should be enough to make a man weary of politics after more than 50 years, a longevity that puts Peres in the rare company of China's Deng Xiaoping. And yet Peres, 73, still fends off would-be successors for Labor's leadership, and associates said the Israeli pioneer dreams of one more comeback before he retires.

He acknowledged in an hour's conversation here the other day, amid mementos of his last months in power, that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to serve his full four-year term. But he pointedly declined to say the same about the coalition that gives Netanyahu his majority in the 120-seat parliament.

Peres sees many fault lines there, and he is maneuvering to exploit them even as he seeks to make his final political move. One day Peres meets with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, whose Shas party holds 10 of the 66 seats in Netanyahu's coalition and could overturn it if it chose to. On another day he plots with Likud Party hard-liner Ariel Sharon, who has scores to settle with Netanyahu and a surprisingly warm relationship with Peres.

"There is a parliamentary machinery, which I don't want to speak about," Peres said of these moves. "It is the legitimate right of an opposition to look for a different setup."

Could it be, as commentator Nahum Barnea wrote, that Peres expects to force his way back into government, in a national unity coalition or otherwise?

"I don't expect," Peres said, smiling the smile of a man in love with words, "but I have learned that many things that were not expected came true. I allow a little bit for the unexpected as part of my expectations, if you want."

It is possible, of course, that Peres simply does not know how to quit. This is a man who recorded in his memoirs that he wooed his wife, Sonia, as a teen-ager "by reading to her, sometimes by the light of the moon, selected passages from Marx's 'Das Kapital.'"

Peres denied he is addicted to politics, saying he of all people should know by now it is not "a promenade on the Champs Elysees." He recounted the traumas of his brief premiership, including the shouts of "murderer" and "traitor" at home scenes where he

had to see "the blood, the dead, the injured, pieces of flesh."

"I don't claim any credit for it," he said, raising his voice. "I don't claim any consideration. The only thing which I would not like is (for it) to be suspected that I am fighting for my personal power, because deep in my heart I don't think this is the case."

What does drive him, Peres said, is the belief that "the next year is the most essential one as far as the peace process is concerned."

"If we shall lose the trust we developed in the Arah world, it will be very hard to regain it, and this is what is

happening before our eyes," he said. "You know, in order to make peace you need a partner, you need a plan and you need a climate. And it was so hard to achieve it—and we didn't achieve it fully, we achieved it partly. To lose it would be catastrophic."

That argument is the stick with which Peres now beats back his party's impatient next generation, the most impatient of whom is the former military chief of staff, Ehud Barak. Barak has made clear he will insist on election for party leadership by next July, the deadline under internal rules. This month, in an unsolicited display of clout, Barak brought hundreds of supporters to a party meeting and had them all walk out noisily after applauding his remarks.

Peres, who announced last month that he has no "plan" or "intention" to run against Netanyahu in 2000, nonetheless says it would be irresponsible to howl out now.

For Netanyahu, who was still in diapers when Peres held his first senior post in the fledgling government of the Jewish state, Peres holds a barely restrained contempt.

"I did not vote for him," he said dryly, "and I didn't change my mind seeing the results."

In a fire-breathing parliamentary speech recently, Peres lambasted Netanyahu for "111 days of verbiage" and accused him of thinking "you are the only clever man in the world," needing only to explain his new positions "and the Arah world will transform itself on the spot."

"You can't have peace for nothing," Peres said. "You can have nothing for nothing."

Israel, Peres said, does not have the luxury of returning to "the old Middle East" of "boyhood and loneliness and putting Israel in a corner," because next time "the old Middle East shall be equipped with new weapons."

Peres and Rabin before him, always regarded Israel as engaged in a kind of race: Could it reach peace with all its important Arab neighbors before the further spread of Islamic fundamentalist regimes and the proliferation of nuclear weapons among them?

Netanyahu, according to Peres, has stopped running that race, but "the other horses—war, terror, fundamentalism—they are galloping." He cited the new Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Turkey's turn toward Islamic government, and threats to the stability of some Arab states.



Auto industry flocks to Poland

LED BY FIAT, a big shake-up and several changes are taking place in Poland's well-established vehicle-making business. Now General Motors (US) and Daewoo (South Korea) are planning major production investments. Ford (US) has opened a \$54 million plant at Plock, its first in Eastern Europe, which is assembling 30,000 Escort cars and Transit vans a year. Other ventures are being planned by component suppliers including two US companies, TRW and Delphi Automotive, and Britain's GKN.

Fiat has announced a major overhaul of its Polish product range and is to launch its new world car, the 178, at its Plock plant within the next two to three years. Although it has said it will manufacture the 178 range in a number of countries, Poland is to be the first production site for Europe. World-wide production is expected to reach about 800,000 units including cars and light commercial vehicles. Fiat, which has about 51 percent of the Polish new car market, is to cease production of the 126 model at the end of 1996 because of environmental regulations, and will introduce a new version of the

Cinquecento to for Poland. Fiat entered the Polish market in 1990 and has developed the largest Central European car industry. It now plans to concentrate on building up local component manufacturers. The local content value has risen from 55 percent in 1992 to 73 percent in 1995. Production last year rose by 11 percent, its highest ever, to 278,000 units, of which more than 56 percent were exported mainly to Western Europe.

South Korea's Daewoo is to make a \$1.1 billion investment in FSO, the state-owned company which is the second largest car manufacturer after Fiat. Daewoo owned General Motors for FSO's wholly subsidiary, OPEL, has a small joint venture assembly operation with FSO. OPEL is now said to be considering a \$288 million greenfield production-site investment which could be producing 100,000 cars by 1998. The new plant will be built within a 100-kilometer radius of Krakow.

About 49 percent of Polish household have cars and last year they bought 370,000 vehicles, of which 200,000 were made locally.

Aleman apparent winner over Ortega for Nicaragua presidency

By Juanita Darling
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—Arnoldo Aleman got into politics to defeat the Marxists who confiscated his coffee fields while his wife had terminal cancer and held him in jail when his father died. With votes still coming in from outlying precincts Monday, he took a lead that virtually assures him of a victory in Nicaragua's presidential election.

Aleman—a burly, right-wing populist—dashed the bid by Daniel Ortega, the one-time rebel commander, to regain the power that his Sandinista National Liberation Front narrowly lost in 1990. With just under half of the vote counted Monday afternoon, Aleman led Ortega by a little more than nine points, taking 48 percent. The rest was divided among 21 minor parties.

Ortega has demanded a recount, claiming irregularities in vote reporting from distant precincts as well as other problems. Police have arrested a man here accused of having six ballot boxes in his house and international observers have noted a number of delays and irregularities. But no one has yet said that they affected the outcome of the election.

"There are no conquerors or conquered," Aleman told cheering supporters before dawn Monday, as first returns showed

him taking a decisive lead. "The only winner is Nicaragua."

He offered his "outstretched hand" to all Nicaraguans to join us in forming a national government of all the country's forces." He specifically extended that invitation to the Sandinistas, who led the revolution that overthrew the Somoza dynasty in 1979, then ruled a Marxist Nicaragua for 11 years, fighting a US-backed civil war. The conciliatory victory speech contrasted sharply with the combative rhetoric that thrust the 50-year-old lawyer onto the national political scene six years ago and kept him there as the feisty mayor of Managua.

Aleman became point man for Sandinista basher. He picked fights as President Violeta Chamorro negotiated an alliance with the Sandinistas—who still controlled the armed forces and important labor unions—that would allow her to govern this deeply divided country.

Aleman, for example, threatened to—had never did—tear down a wall that Ortega had built around his house, blocking a public street.

He did, though, engineer another symbolic victory against the Sandinistas: Throughout the 1980s, they had their giant party initials—FSLN, in Spanish—dominating the hills above Managua, much as the Hollywood sign rises over Los Angeles. After the tip fell off the L in 1990, Aleman

sent city workers to tear down the S, leaving the sign to read FIN.

When not squabbling with the Sandinistas, Aleman gave a face lift to a capital that had never recovered from a devastating 1972 earthquake. He built libraries, parks, fountains and a new boardwalk on the expansive shores of Lake Managua.

Aleman is the son of one-time dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle's education minister. As a lawyer, Aleman represented clients whose property was confiscated by Sandinistas. He was jailed for seven months in 1980. He also battled the Sandinistas as president of the Coffee Growers Union; his own fields were confiscated in 1989, a month after his wife was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Like many other business leaders, Aleman entered politics to throw Ortega out of office. He joined the Liberal Party a decade ago and ran for mayor in 1990. Despite his relatively short career in public office, politics seems to come naturally to the apparent president-elect.

Aleman is a pragmatic man in the worst sense of the word," said Carlos Fernando Chamorro, a political analyst and the current president's son.

Aleman will need to be pragmatic if he is to accomplish anything in

a country where the Congress, which his party probably will not control, can override a presidential veto with a 51 percent vote, analysts said. "He is going to have to get along with Congress," said Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, Aleman's recently named foreign secretary-elect.

But Aleman's proposal for reconciliation already threatens to provoke another confrontation—with countries that give aid to Nicaragua. The biggest dispute left by the Sandinistas has been about

confiscated property, a problem that Aleman estimates could be solved by paying off property owners at a price of about \$500 million.

And where will that money come from? "Where did the \$11.5 billion

come from to make war?" Aleman replied. "If, in the past decade, a group of incompetents got so many billions to make war, we are going to scour the world for just \$500 million to buy the peace."



Re-emerging in Nicaragua

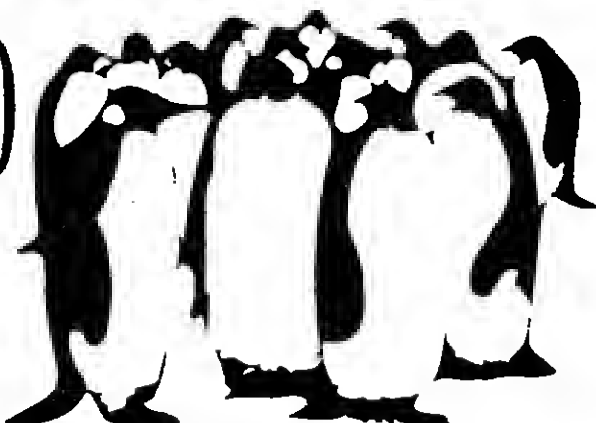
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Poznan International Fair

Program 1997

- 21-24.01. BUDMA International Construction Fair
- 21-24.01. SECUREX International Exhibition of Property Protection
- 04-07.03. SPRING Consumer Goods Fair (Cosmetics, Toys, Sports, Jewelry, Food) Poznan Fashion Week
- 18-21.03. DOMEXPO Spring Consumer Goods Fair, everything for the home
- 15-21.03. SALMED International Fair of Medical Equipment
- 08-11.04. INFOSYSTEM International Fair of Electronics, Telecommunication and Computer Engineering
- 08-11.04. POLIGRAFIA International Exhibition of Printing Machines, Materials and Services
- 08-11.04. MULTIMEDIA Publishing and New Media Fair
- 25-30.04. International Fair of the Automotive Industry
- 06-08.05. CEPEX Central European Power Exhibition
- 19-23.05. MEBLE Fair of Furniture and Furnishings
- 19-23.05. DREMA International Trade Fair of Woodworking Machines and Tools
- 15-20.06. 69th Poznan International Fair
- 02-05.09. AUTUMN Consumer Goods Fair (Cosmetics, Toys, Sports, Jewelry, Food) Poznan Fashion Week
- 02-05.09. ASIA IN POLAND
- 08-12.09. SIMMEX International Fair for Mining, Power Industry and Metallurgy (in Katowice)
- 16-18.09. International Trade Fair METALS-POLAND
- 02-07.10. POLAGRA International Agro-Industrial Fair
- 02-07.10. National horticultural Exhibition
- 16-19.10. BICYKL International Cycling Fair
- 21-24.10. DOMEXPO Autumn Consumer Goods Fair "Everything for the home"
- 02-24.10. TAROPAK International Packaging, Storage and Handling Exhibition
- 04-07.11. TOUR SALON International Exhibition of Tourism
- 04-07.11. International Advertising Fair
- 25-28.11. POLEKO International Ecological Fair
- 25-28.11. KOMEX International Fair of Municipal Maintenance Equipment
- 25-28.11. INVESTCITY Investment Opportunities in Polish Cities

AROUND TOWN

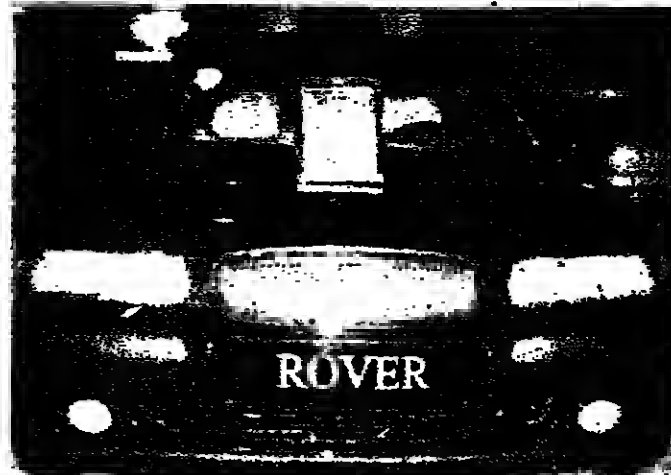


For second consecutive year, Rover Saloon wins first prize

THE JORDANIAN Motor Company, agents of the British Rover Saloons, has for the second consecutive year won first prize at the International Motor Show which took place in Amman 15-20 October.

Their section exhibited 1997 models that are coming on the market.

The Rover Saloon was chosen from among 26 exhibiting companies, by a special committee from the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan. ■



Scrapbook

Redeeming my sanity in Amman

By Bilal Hijjawi

WASHINGTON—Back in Amman with all the feeling of insecurity, I had good laughs; with all the instability, I liked work; with all our differences, people always talked and helped one another, and with all the poverty and unemployment, crimes were scarce and distant incidents. Life was for real.

Here only the law tells us you are for real. Mind you, the rhythm is never established; meaning the social system doesn't work.

Here, depression really eats you up every hour, and you never know what makes it. A land so big on money, but so poor on values; so big on opportunity, personal freedoms and rights; having a good time, yet so short on happiness. A land so big on communications, yet people are not talking to each other.

Every big thing here is a celebration of loneliness and muteness: theater, radio, television, the Internet, voice boxes, and answering machines. Everybody listens alone. Yet they claim that the communications revolution has brought them closer.

I miss our haphazard way of life back in Jordan. Amman is not so depressing after all. Here, it seems people will trade life in the big town with its 101 TV stations for a taste of the small town with cranky lines, small talk and four TV stations.

Here, you never talk to your closest friends; they're all boxed in their monotonous lives. I mean, how many times would Peter Jennings or Madonna invite you to their homes, or even call you at home. Even if for chats only.

And you rarely find anyone on the other end of the phone line who is willing to go for small talk. I mean this is why you buy answering machines, why you install a voice box, why you have email or a homepage on the Internet.

In Amman, I visit my friends with the clear objective of wasting their time. And they appreciate it, and thank me too. The practice has evolved into a form of art, entertainment and spiritual healing, and it comes with free perks.

Here, if you show up, they twist their mouths and turn their noses. My friend for the last four years did that to me for so long, until she said it I like you as a friend, but I've got a lot of things to do. But when she needed a place to stay, she called it a small favor, and she visited me. I thought that was rude.

Here, when you call the operator for a short string of information, you end up listening to digital music that reloads twice, sometimes four times, before a synthetic voice directs you to a different one, and another directs you to another... before your serving of information arrives, digitally that is. Call anywhere, anytime and for anything, and you get a maze of synthetic voices routing you, telling you everything from the pizza toppings requested, to procedures for fixing a date tonight.

But not when you pay; you will get a real voice alright. Yes you will; and you'll know when it's coming. Just a few moments before a real voice comes on line. I mean real-time human voice, the last digital voice prompts you to "Please, have your credit card number and date of expiration ready." Then, you are sure it's a butman contact, on real time basis. If you are lucky, it's a female. But don't you ever get carried away and try to get a date from the person behind the human voice; because you never know where they are. If you're lucky, they're only 100 miles away. Need your horoscope? They've got that too. On the edge, dial up. Hungry, dial up. Need a date, dial up.

The city here is important; it's celebrated by an endless shriek of sirens and their echoes. They reverberate between beautiful and tall buildings day and night. Until one day I woke up and the music was gone.

That day, I knew it was time to go too.

It's that time, when your ears stop hearing. You've forgotten how to use them. They're numb. And you know, it's that time again. You know it's time to go back to there. It's when you need to redeem your sanity back in Amman. ■

Photo exhibit of Israeli onslaught on Lebanon reveal horrors of war

By Anca de Maio
Special to The Star

The four-day French News Agency photo exhibition on the Israeli "Grapes of Wrath" onslaught on southern Lebanon that was carried out last April gave a comprehensive visual testimony to events everybody knew about through the mass media.

Thirty-nine photos taken in Nabatieh, Qanaa, Tyr, Beirut, Mansouri, Metula, Southern Lebanon and two in Kiriya Chomouna in northern Israel form a sequence of war events that comprise the escalating tensions between the belligerents.

The photos, held at the Shoman Foundation, capture the exodus of more than 200,000 civilians from villages in southern Lebanon. They also depict the shelling with the growing awe it spread, the blood of the wounded and the dead, the tears of mourning families and the mass demonstrations.

At the time, most of these photos were published on the cover pages of newspapers and magazines such as *Le Figaro*, *L'Evenement*, the *Daily Mail*, *Al-Diyar*, *Al-Anwar*, *La Repubblica*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, etc. In their new context and with their original colors, the photos acquire a strong emotional value besides their historical documentary importance.

They mobilize the awareness of a human drama that the sensational press and media slo-

gans, failed to grasp. The photographs brings the events closer to the public eye and displays them in their raw authenticity. An old man retrieving a small bike from under the ruins of his house, the sorrowful eyes of a seriously injured infant suffering on a hospital bed besides his helpless mother (Tyr), women crying out their despair on the leftovers of their houses (Ain El Hilweh), a father showing in anguish the dead body of his baby (Nabatieh), rescuers bringing out burnt bodies (Qanat).

One picture is very emblematic of the Middle East's all-too-known context. A young man trapped under the rubble of his house desperately looking for help speaks of the conditions of the civilian population as prisoners of a never-ending state of war.

They pay for the politicians' incapacity to solve the conflict and for their eagerness to see military action in terms of "political impact" rather than in terms of human suffering. (Almost 60,000 civilians still live in southern Lebanon where Israeli military attacks are taking place).

Blue Helmets instinctively ducking their heads during an air strike (Mansouri) illustrate the pathetic failure of the international community to put an end to the continuous attacks on defenseless people.

The appalling drama of civilians who took refuge in a UNIFIL base in the village of Qana (where more than 100 people were killed and as many wounded) has little testimony in compar-

son to Nabatieh, where photographer Ramzi Haidar took the most traumatizing pictures of the exhibition.

Nevertheless, that special depth radiating from truly important war-footage that brings photography into the realm of art is never easy to reach. The ability to convey a specific event with universal messages on human conditions, within a single shot, remains a unique gift to few photographers like Robert Capa, McCullin, and Sebastian Salgado.

They could tell more about the horrors of the war through a black-and-white unfocused shot of a woman looking at the clouds than the closest sharp zooms on dead babies' white faces. The gift to bathe any war scene in a unique universally meaningful light is the expression of an interest not only in featuring truth and reality, but also in capturing that profound and irresistible synergism between man, suffering and the surrounding world, which those who have known war know but cannot describe. ■



Homage to abstract and reality

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

The artist combines two irreconcilable worlds, laying on canvass and paper an inner conflict between two realities and concepts of life. This is the feeling an onlooker gets when viewing Ghassan Abu Laban's artistic creations. Entitled *Nostalgia II*, his exhibition, displayed at the Spanish Cultural Center, is a long journey into the subconscious.

The juxtaposition of the abstract and the realistic styles of painting is the matrix of the exhibition. "Inside of me there is a schizophrenic disorder, so to speak, that partitions my paintings," Abu Laban told *The Star*. I can't, he added, "get rid of the influence the old schools of art have on me; yet, I seek to produce modern paintings." Actually, the artist does not highlight one aspect at the expense of the other but he draws on the two with the same level of respect.

A painting titled *Homage to Goya* reveals Abu Laban's obsession with the old art conventions. He has a deep respect for the Spanish artist Francisco de Goya, who resides, along with other artists of that age, in Abu Laban's intellectual faculty. "I painted Goya because I owe him much of what I have learned about the basics and philosophies of art," he stressed.

He went on to tell the story of Goya, who after quitting his job as a painter of the court, joined people and painted their sufferings. Thus, the ordinary man became the main subject in Goya's paintings, after having been painted previously only in the background.

According to Abu Laban, modernity does not mean that art loses one of its main functions: social criticism. He said that "I took part of Goya's *Execution* to revive the role that art played in censuring the oppression practiced by the authority against people. Goya used many symbols to sarcastically comment on a grim reality."

Searching in the subconscious for canonized moments that go beyond the tangible is a main aspect of the process of creativity. Reality does not always provide the artist with rich pictures and visions that are available through memory. It is believed that what happens in a subconscious state of mind is the truest moment ever. Yet, in the case of Abu Laban, the subconscious is not the only key factor behind creativity, but there is also a rational faculty that protects the work of art from chaos.

A work of art assumes the shape of an idea which undergoes several stages before it is consummated. The painter then approaches his work with a clear vision in mind, and proceeds to bring together several elements (the artist's hands, colors, canvas, brush strokes) to create a painting. When the painting process begins, there is room for a kind of excursion from the basic vision. But a diligent artist is able all the time to "control the excursion and keep the process within the framework of the matrix."

A dialogue between the old and the new is another way to assess the message behind the exhibition. One of the paintings portrays a half-naked woman looking at herself in the mirror. The reflected picture was geometrically shaped. It is as if the

woman is looking inside her trying to capture the essence of her existence only to find out a bitter truth.

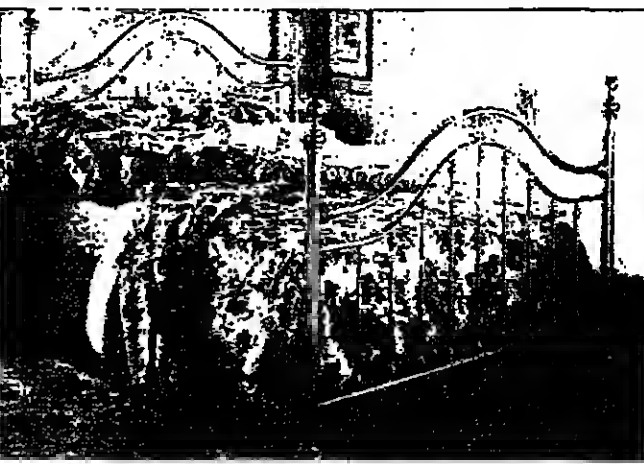
The abstract in this painting and other ones which tackle the same concept indirectly deconstruct the classical styles and generate new concepts. For example, Leonardo Davinci's renowned painting *Jokanda*, is painted in fragments. This painting is made with unprecedented dexterity yet it was turned by people into a myth; I used the abstract to change the mainstream view of the painting.

Painters are in a way music composers. This is exactly what Abu Laban revealed in some of his paintings depicting people playing with musical instruments. Three persons who know nothing of music posed to be painted holding musical instruments. Abu Laban said that I was thinking about such a pose for three months until I decided it will go this way. "Before I started painting I had the structure of colors and movements in mind; what I did is that, with certain vision in mind, I have created something that might not happen."

The artist's ability to combine two different concepts and colors (he used charcoal and oil in one painting) and to challenge the conventional styles of art with one's own vision is quite impressive. "An old woman told me that she enjoyed the paintings though she could not understand," he added.

Abu Laban was born in Bethlehem 1964 and had his BA in art from Yarmouk University. He participated in different local and international exhibitions. ■

American Fair for Textiles and Furniture



THE LATEST American products in textiles and furniture at lowest prices can be found in the US Furniture Fair. A wide range of wire spring and water spring orthopedic mattresses designed to provide comfort to those suffering from backache, insomnia, can be found at the fair. These products are approved by the American Medical Council.

The fair includes brass beds, upholstery textiles and cyclinders. The fair specializes in importing American Furniture and shipping them directly for you from the factory at cheap prices through catalogues. This saves you more than 50 percent off the original price. The fair's designers welcomes any suggestions you may have to suite both your budget and taste.

We are specialized in shipping containers from the United States on our two trips per month. ■

A sigh of an orphan

A boy of eight was thrown in poverty
was torn in tears and worn in a mystery

Always remembering Paradise lost;
in his parents and their custody
who were driven into traffic accident
Buried his own dreams which were instant

On their graves he weeps and he used to stand
He sleeps a little in some part of the night
And be awake in all its major part.

Oh, hard luck Dear mother and Dear dad,
How I'm exhausted and how I'm sad.

A man and woman came into the sight
Holding a lighting candle each in hand.

they called back his almost grievous outcry.

Oh Dear son we're coming "do not be sad".

Fawzi Shalabi is a teacher at
Wadi Seer College

Speeding past sound
The arrival of Thrust SSCBy Manal Omar
Special to The Star

Faster than a bullet—is it a bird? a plane? No. It's a car. And not just any car, but the long awaited Thrust Super Sonic Car (SSC). On 22 October, Andrew Noble, the Organizing Manager of the project, announced the arrival of the car that is planning to break the world land speed record. The grand entrance will take place on 26 October, where the Thrust SSC will arrive in Jordan aboard the Russian An-124 freighter.

After careful research, the head of the project decided on Al-Jafr desert as the final location for the attempt to break the world record of 1019.44 kilometers per hour. The jet-powered car will be driven by British Air Force officer Andy Green.

Thrust SSC was originally scheduled to arrive in Jordan in July. However, due to extensive tests and preparations, the

arrival date of the car had been delayed. "Before we bring the car over to Jordan, everything has to be perfect," explained Andrew Noble.

The race isn't solely against the speed of sound, but the powers of time as well. An American team in Nevada has the same goal as the Thrust SSC team—to establish the new world record in land speed. As a result, a time constraint has been added to the pressure of breaking the world record. The American team officially began their attempts to break the record on 22 October, giving them a head start over the British Thrust SSC team, who will not be able to begin until 31 October. Nonetheless, Andrew Noble confidently predicts the success of the British team, claiming Jordan is the ideal location for the record to be broken.

Although starting late, the Al-Jafr desert will provide the Thrust SSC team with a number of advantages. "The surface of the mud is very hard, which provides for a much



faster run," explains Noble. Most importantly, Al-Jafr will provide the British Thrust SSC team with more promising weather. Everything is set for the attempts to begin. "The only thing we need is for the weather to be nice to us, and for that I say *Inshallah*," states Noble.

According to Noble, another strong advantage is the Jordanian community. "We have received much support from the Jordanian people, the air force, even Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal—that we could not get in the US." Indeed, the Jordanian community has been enthusiastically supportive. The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), the Royal Jordanian Air Force, and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center have played an

important role in preparing the course.

In addition, the RACJ will be timing each attempt made on behalf of the international automobile association, FIA. The Forte Grande Hotel has set up a table in the main lobby, which will be updated daily via internet and news releases about the latest run. In addition, the table has on display souvenirs from the Thrust SSC team, which are bound to be collector's items if the attempts prove successful.

As the final preparations are made, the anticipation in Jordan mounts. The attempts in Al-Jafr are open to all, providing the opportunity to witness a potentially historical event. The success of the Thrust SSC will establish Jordan as the new landmark for speed. God's speed Green. ■

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at The French Cultural Center, continues till 29 October.

■ Works by Nabeel Shihadeh, at Darat al Funun, continues till 13 November.

■ Exhibition by Muhammad Nasrallah, at Darat al Funun, opened on 23 November.

■ "Timeless Weaving and New Creations", at the

Jordan Crafts Development Center (Al Aydi), Monday 28 October. The Center located at Jabal Amman 2nd Circle.

Film

■ *Greek to Gothic*, at Darat al Funun, Thursday 24 October, at 5:00 pm.

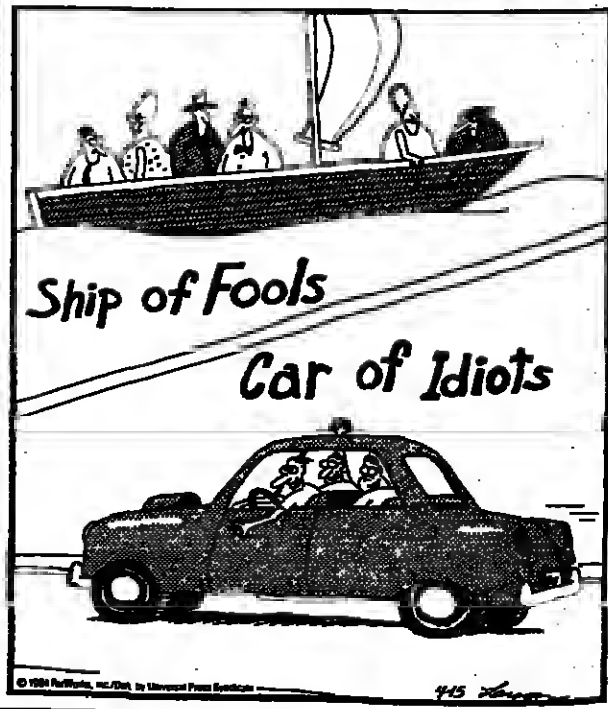
■ *Melo*, at the French Cultural Center, Monday 28 October at 8:00 pm

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"It's the mailman, doc. He scares me."



● Exhibition and Sale of lithographs, old postcards and photographs on Jerusalem, Chinese paintings, at Um El Kudum, right off the Airport highway on the way to Arabian Horse Club, first left at the top of the hill. Friday 25 October from 11 am onwards. Tel: 664805

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By GARY LARSON

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OCTOBER 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for

The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



APPEARING IN: AMMAN • BANGKOK • BEIJING • BOMBAY • BUNTA • CAIRO • CARACAS • HONG KONG • JAKARTA • KARACHI • KUALA LUMPUR • LIMA • MANILA • MEXICO CITY • MOSCOW • PANAMA CITY • QUITO • SAN JOSE • TAIPEI • TOKYO

Globalization overtakes the legal profession

Need breaks down the borders around law

The dramatic spread of trade, travel and cyberspace has fueled demand for global law and its practitioners. Lawyers and businesspeople are rushing to meet the need, cobbling up new bodies of law out of existing US and UK legal codes and aiding governments who 'borrow' from other countries' statute books

By Brad Durham

THE GLOBALIZATION of business, transportation and information technology has created a cadre of globe-trotting American lawyers, most often spouting in airport terminals tapping away at laptop computers. Once sleepy law firms, which formerly made a good living representing local clients, now are teeming with foreign clients and have opened offices in major world capitals.

While many of the top international law firms now have offices in London, Paris, Tokyo and Hong Kong, the truly global firms have the resources to establish far-flung outposts in emerging markets. From these outposts, they scoop up the early privatization work, work on joint ventures, advise governments on the development of commercial legislation and handle other transaction business for their more adventurous multinational clients. Often, they absorb a loss in order to establish their client lists.

US lawyers and their unique concepts of business law first invaded Europe in the early 1970s, when US corporate lawyers were responsible for much of the legal work related to the de-

velopment of oil under the North Sea. While the arrival of the American legal eagles was resented by the home-grown firms, who feared losing local business and their best associates to the US firms, most European lawyers now admit that they have learned much from the US attorneys about business law and serving clients. European firms now handle most of the still profitable North Sea development work.

Nevertheless, a fair amount of grumbling is heard from the UK legal community concerning predatory moves from US law firms, which are poaching the best and the brightest from local firms as they move into London.

The firm hold of US lawyers on the globalization of law is tied to several key advantages, according to John Merow, a partner of Sullivan & Cromwell, a 400-lawyer New York law firm with half of its client base outside the United States. "English, in particular American English, is the global language of business

and finance," says Merow. "New York is a popular choice of law for transnational matters and the American style of legal practice is attractive to many participants in transnational work."

US firms have gone global mainly to meet the commercial needs of their multinational clients, rather than any lust for global conquest. And many of these clients are companies that, through the formation of international partnerships, are becoming free-floating entities whose anchors to home markets have been lifted. There is pressure on law firms to do the same.

Lawyers also report that clients are looking to simplify matters by choosing law firms that offer "one-stop shopping" in the various countries where they are active. Intensifying competition among the global firms to retain major clients has, in at least one instance, caused a law

firm to open a foreign office at the request of just one large client.

With such widespread global presence, US firms can't help but make their mark on international legal practices. Aspects of international commercial law that US firms have been instrumental in developing include international arbitration, global tax advice, privatizations, derivatives, international intellectual property and international banking. US legal practices are also omnipresent in an informal body of international law—ranging from insurance to acquisitions—that is recognized and used in all the world's commercial centers, and enforced by large international arbitration bodies in Stockholm and Paris.

Merow says his firm has built a significant global practice without practicing local law in foreign countries. His

firm drums up business in foreign markets by essentially selling the merits of US law to govern certain deals.

It is not a hard sell. "If you look around the world, US law and legal practice has permeated about every aspect of cross-border transactions," said Merow. "Contracts are drafted in the American style, covering matters more explicitly than they do on the continent. New York [state] law is commonly chosen for international commercial transactions, along with English law."

Merow adds that New York law is frequently used even in deals not involving US partners and in particular for capital markets projects. He cited the example

of a recent African copper mine financing project involving a group of owners spread around the world—though none US domiciled—which chose New York law to govern the contract. "Of course they didn't want the whole deal riding on what might or might not be in Namibian law," says Merow.

Among the top US firms active abroad, some are high-priced hand-holders for their clients or "glorified travel agents," as one attorney put it. Other firms like to jump into the fray for their clients locally. Bill Holland, a partner in the New York office of Chadbourne & Parke, describes one recent case in which the firm represented a foreign investor in a Russian company. This investor was prevented from attending the annual shareholders' meeting in which a new general director was elected. The court invalidated the new director's appointment and all his subsequent decisions.

"These are important precedents for the development of a rule of law in a situation where local law wasn't up to speed and the judge had no experience with the subject matter," says Holland.

In many cases US firms are working directly with governments in the emerging markets of Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe to draft laws, from constitutions and civil codes to commercial laws. According to a Washington-based attorney who requested anonymity, "You just can't beat the experience of helping to frame a commercial code in getting a foothold in a market that may blossom into an important business center someday."

But while US lawyers have been ahead in many areas of the global game, especially in commercial matters, the competition is stiffening from UK and German firms. "We are always

competing with the other large US international firms, but now the beauty contests include major international law firms from many different countries," says William Matteson, a partner with Debevoise & Plimpton in New York. ■

BRAD DURHAM IS THE EDITOR OF *Russia Portfolio*, A WASHINGTON, D.C.-BASED NEWSLETTER ON RUSSIAN SECURITIES.



Spot the global lawyer: American and British lawyers are extending their practices—and legal codes—far beyond their native countries

US firms have gone global mainly to meet the commercial needs of their multinational clients

Drafting and signing treaties has legal consequences

International agreements help rewrite Chinese law



'This doesn't look like Mao's legal thinking...' China's involvement with international law is beginning to affect its own statute books

By Zhang Dan

THE TIMING WAS PERFECT. On July 29, the last Chinese nuclear explosion thundered beneath the Lop Nor Desert in the country's remote northwest. Hours later, when the Geneva Conference on Disarmament reopened, the Chinese representative declared that China would indefinitely suspend all nuclear tests and was ready to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

As one of the world's five declared nuclear powers, China made compromises while fighting hard to protect its national interests during more than two years of haggling over the treaty.

Of late, it's the kind of situation China has frequently found itself in. As the country takes on a greater international role and becomes more integrated with the world's economy, it is drafting and implementing more and more international laws and treaties.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since China has participated in about 200 international treaties and agreements, and has been a signatory state to almost all international treaties concluded since 1980. This involvement is beginning to have an effect on China's own legal codes.

"The Chinese government adopts a serious attitude toward all international treaties and laws it has signed or ratified," says Professor Liu Nanlai, a senior researcher of international laws with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. When domestic laws contravene international ones ratified by China, the latter prevail, he says.

In the past decades, according to Liu Nanlai, the Chinese government has amended many of its laws to get them in line with international conventions, calling this process "the docking of domestic laws with international practices."

"Acceding to international treaties is absolutely necessary for a nation which has increasing international exchanges," he says, adding that, "Joining in the drafting process is also important for protecting our national interests."

China's involvement in global law-making began in 1971 when Beijing won the Chinese seat in the United Nations formerly held by Taiwan. From the very beginning of its participation in the drafting of international laws and treaties, China has always taken a stance in support of developing countries.

Says Counselor Liu Zhenmin with the Treaty and Law Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Ours is a developing country, and we find that our interests are in common with those of other developing countries." China followed this line of thought when it joined other nations in drafting the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea between 1973 and 1982. So far, it is the most influential international treaty that China has been involved with.

China joined other developing countries in advocating the establishment of the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ), one of the most important terms of the law.

But on another important issue, management of the international seabed and ocean floor exploitation, China has changed its previous stance, helping fashion a body of international law that has more in common with the interests of developed nations. Initially, China strongly backed the concept of a stiff tax on the exploitation of natural resources under the high seas.

By 1991, however, China decided that it would need to mine resources on ocean floors in the future and had secured the mining rights to a 150,000 square kilometer area in the south Pacific. Consequently, China joined those marine powers appealing against the levying of duties on marine mining operations. An agreement was reached in this regard in 1994, 12 years after the convention was passed.

As it grows stronger and richer, Chi-

na often finds it hard to stick to its traditional stance all the time. "We must look to the future when our country becomes a marine power," says Liu Nanlai.

Counselor Liu Zhenmin of the Foreign Ministry also admits that, "We certainly face the question of adjusting or changing our position and thinking about issues linking China to the rest of the world but, since China is still a developing country, any major change or adjustment won't happen now," he says.

This is true of the Chinese stance in the country's nine-year bid to join the World Trade Organization. China has insisted that it joins the WTO with obligations of a developing country, but many WTO members think the Chinese market is not open enough and are pressing for changes in its legal and tax codes.

China asserts that it has done its best in this regard. Liu Zhenmin cites China's tariff reduction of 30 percent early this year, adding that, "As a developing country, we can't fulfill obligations beyond our capacity."

"Every international treaty or law is a result of disputes and compromises," observes Liu Nanlai while discussing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which was finally derailed by India's refusal to sign it.

"In the process of drafting an international treaty or convention, every country tries to get the most for its own national interests," he says. "China is no exception." ■

ZHANG DAN WRITES FOR CHINA FEATURES, A DIVISION OF THE BEIJING-BASED XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.

UK lawyers lead charge East Europe a market for capitalism's rule book

By Heather Rowe and Alan Black

THE SHINGLE HANGING outside a foreign law firm is often the most tangible evidence people have that law is being globalized. But it is also relatively unimportant. What matters is the adoption of one country's laws and practices into the legal system of another.

The overthrow of Communist governments in Eastern Europe in recent years shows how successfully certain areas of law can be exported. Large swathes of the US securities and anti-trust statutes, for example, were imported by these countries when they decided to run capitalist.

In Czechoslovakia, the Velvet Revolution and the subsequent separation in 1993 of the Czech and Slovak Republics led to the emergence of a market-based economy and, since then, the Czech Government has implemented an ambitious program of economic reform designed to establish a free market economy through the privatization of state enterprises, deregulation and the modernization of the bank system and money markets. By 1991, US and UK firms were opening offices in Prague to capitalize on their understanding of the legal framework "borrowed" by the Czech reformers.

Several areas of East European law have also been borrowed from other countries. The documentation for inter-

►CAPITALISM'S RULES PAGE 2

LEGAL GLOBETROTTER

While watching the Olympics two weeks ago, the scene that touched me most deeply was the sight of athletes from the People's Republic of China and athletes from the Republic of China on Taiwan encouraging and congratulating each other. I am a citizen of the Republic of China, yet this scene of brotherhood reminded me that, regardless of the color of our passports, Chinese should help Chinese.

I share with many of my compatriots an ideal vision of China in the twenty-first century: a country governed by the rule of law, where fundamental human rights are protected and preserved; a country motivated by the free-market system, with economic opportunity for all; a country which benefits from universal education, where every citizen contributes to national development; a country united in purpose, where the specter of civil war is banished. Such a vision is perhaps too ambitious to be quickly accomplished. Instead, we

must work within the constraints of realpolitik to achieve that which is immediately possible.

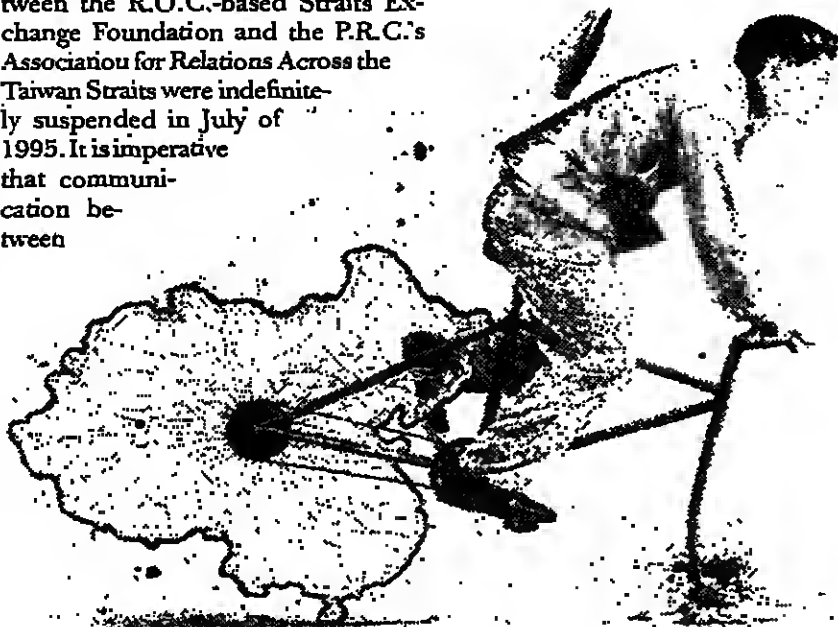
Taiwan is currently the second-largest investor in mainland China, with the majority of that investment funneled through Hong Kong. When Hong Kong reverts to the mainland next year, the P.R.C. and the R.O.C. will have the opportunity to strengthen their existing ties with a successful trade agreement. The R.O.C. has already suggested the establishment of a special trade zone to achieve this end. In addition, the R.O.C. government is in the process of establishing an "Asia-Pacific Regional Operations Center" with extensive facilities for manufacturing, sea and air transportation, media, telecommunications, and financial activities. Such a center could assist in directing the flow of trade and investment with the mainland.

Most important to this process is the re-opening of the channels of negotiation between the two sides. Talks between the R.O.C.-based Straits Exchange Foundation and the P.R.C.'s Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits were indefinitely suspended in July of 1995. It is imperative that communication between

these two groups be restored if there is to be any hope of reconciliation.

Every Chinese schoolchild learns the story of the Tsao brothers, who lived in the third century. Upon the death of their father, Tsao Tsao, the elder brother, Tsao Pei, ascended to the throne. However, Tsao Pei's younger brother, Tsao Tse, was more favorably regarded in court, and his older brother plotted to kill him. One day, the two brothers were out walking. Tsao Pei challenged Tsao Tse to compose a poem in seven paces; his failure to do so would result in his death. Tsao Tse accordingly recited the following poem, and his life was spared: Firing the beanstalks to cook the beans, The beans are crying in the pod: We are both sprung from the same root, Why are you in such haste to cook me?

—Eddy Tsai, Director
Information Division
Taipei Economic and
Cultural Office, Boston



CAPITALISM'S RULES

Continued from page 1

national bond issues follows standard international bond market practices; most of the issues so far have been governed by English law and meet the requirements for listing on the London Stock Exchange. Company law in the Czech Republic is very similar to that in the UK, whereas the Czech Commercial Code, introduced in 1992, was influenced greatly by the commercial laws of neighboring Austria and Germany. This is a prime example of how an area of law has been almost entirely imported from another country.

Globalization has been achieved not just by the willingness of countries to incorporate foreign laws into commercial contracts, but also by the determination of lawyers to extend their practices into foreign countries. US firms were the first to embrace globalization, some say because the US legal market was saturated at the time and did not provide the potential for growth.

The tendency to use UK law as opposed to US law, where this occurs, is due partly to a reluctance to change (the number of English precedents is increasing and local lawyers are gaining experience in UK law) and partly to the advantages gained from a common set of practices. Foreign corporations, for instance, see Europe as having an increasingly accessible legal framework. This encourages even small companies to acquire a base within the EU, since the legal obstacles to conducting business throughout Europe have been greatly reduced by the common principles finding their way into the commercial law codes of most nations.

In East Europe, there is also a more direct reason for the increasing use of

UK and US law to govern contracts. Several countries there permit parties to sign contracts governed by external legal codes provided that the relevant transaction has a sufficient "foreign element"—if at least one of the parties to the transaction is a foreign entity, for example. British law is often applied simply because many large commercial contracts involve UK-based companies.

The export of legal codes is not the

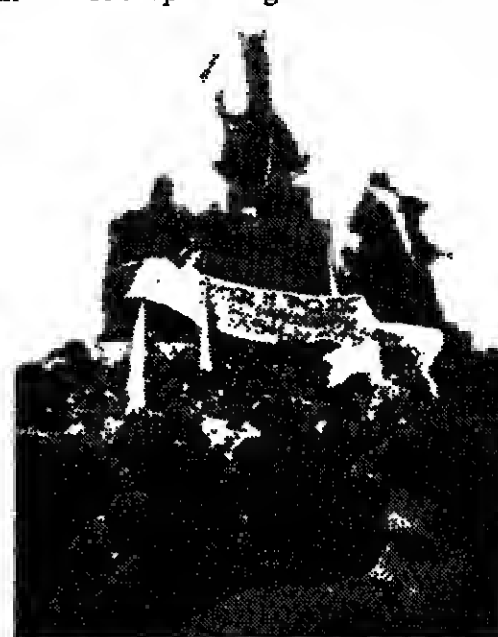
never work. As auditors and accountants there is a disclosure requirement, an obligation to report on wrong-doing by clients that affects the conduct of their business. Lawyers, on the other hand, are duty-bound to protect the client—who is innocent until proven guilty—thus giving rise to a conflict. It may be impossible to audit and at the same time provide legal advice to the same client.

The advantage that accounting firms have over their purely legal counterparts is threefold. First, their business went "global" earlier than that of lawyers, and their experience serving the tax needs of multinational corporations gives them an edge in this new field. Secondly, they can offer one-stop shopping. It is an enormous advantage to have a law firm inside a worldwide structure of auditors, accountants, and management consultants. They can offer clients involved in cross-border deals a huge, connected network of professionals.

Another reason for the accountants' success in this area is that they have the money to attract the best lawyers. They can also afford to take early losses to attract and retain clients.

The situation is worse for French lawyers, or *avocats*. In 1992 the French bar decided to amalgamate the legal profession, bringing *avocats* and *conseils juridiques et fiscaux* together under one roof. This conferred the status and privileges of *avocats* onto the *conseils juridiques et fiscaux* in the accounting firms. Now the legal departments of the "Big Six" accounting firms all rank within the top ten legal consultants in France. □

HEATHER ROWE AND ALAN BLACK ARE LAWYERS WITH LOVELL WHITE DURRANT IN LONDON.



'I think they must be a delegation from the British legal profession!'

only interesting development in the globalization of law. In recent years, accounting firms have been expanding their presence in the "legal" market. Many of the large accounting firms in the UK now have their own in-house legal departments—or associated legal firms—which are fully able to deal with the needs of their clients. British law firms, not surprisingly, see this as a threat.

Some critics of this trend argue that combined law/accounting firms can

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ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Adventures of Mickey and Donald
- 2:30—Bold and Beautiful
- 2:45—Just The Job
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—Gillette (sports)
- 4:30—Chris Cross
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Futures (Educational)
- 5:15—Blue Heelers
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Something Wilder
- 8:01—New Literacy (Doc)
- 8:30—Prism
- 9:10—Lois and Clarke
- 10:30—Return to Lonesome Dove (Best Seller)
- 12:00—Feature Film

SUNDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Fleets American Tails
- 2:30—You Bet Your Life
- 3:00—French Programs
- 4:00—World Net (Doc)
- 4:30—The Famous Five
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Our World, Their World
- 5:15—Search and Rescue
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air

MONDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Bold and Beautiful
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—Nature's Inventions
- 4:30—Hey Dad
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Rosanne
- 8:01—Disaster Chronicle (Doc)
- 8:30—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 9:10—The Lazarus Man
- 10:30—News at Ten
- 10:30—Return to Lonesome Dove
- 11:15—Bodies Of Evidence
- 12:00—Dad's Army

TUESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Budgie (Cartoon)
- 2:20—Adventures on The Rainbow Pond
- 2:30—Love Lucy
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—At The Zoo
- 4:30—Ali
- 5:00—News Flash



Star Trek, Tuesday at 7:35 pm

- 5:02—Fun with Physics
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Murphy Brown
- 8:01—Magazine Zero-One
- 8:30—Encounter
- 9:10—Star Trek
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—China Beach
- 11:15—Mission Impossible
- 12:00—Are You Being Served

WEDNESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Bold and Beautiful
- 3:00—French Programs
- 4:00—Earth Revealed
- 4:30—Bilzard Island
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—The Adventurers
- 5:30—Kelly
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—The Four Seasons
- 8:01—Super Stars of Action
- 8:30—Challenges
- 9:10—NBA
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Bugs (Drama)
- 11:15—Hart To Hart

THURSDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris
- 2:15—Orid and the Gang
- 2:30—Take Your Pick
- 3:00—Cavington Cross
- 3:30—Feature Film
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Continuation of Film
- 5:30—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—UN Facts
- 8:01—American Chari Show
- 8:30—Material World
- 9:10—Kung Fu
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Feature Film
- 12:00—Tarantula

FRIDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris
- 2:15—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Playabout
- 3:00—See How They Grow
- 3:15—French Programs
- 4:10—Crystal Maze
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Name Your Adventure

- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Documentary
- 8:01—Secret Weapons
- 8:30—Hunter
- 9:10—V.R.S. The Virtual Reality (science fiction)
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Classic Movie
- 12:00—Family Matters

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

- 3:00—Documentaire
La France aux 1000 villages
- 3:30—Emission jeunesse
Fête des bêtes
- 6:00—Série
Jack
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine
Ziva

DIMANCHE

- 3:00—Emission jeunesse
Cajou
- 3:30—Divertissement
Week-ends spéciaux
"Peter Gabriel"
- 6:00—Magazine
Faut pas rêver
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI

- 3:00—Variétés
L'Éclaircie
Eddy Mitchell
- 3:30—Documentaire
Travelling gourmet
- 6:00—Magazine
Cassiope
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

- 3:00—Dessins animés
Montagne

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Celebs...



● Robbie Williams and Peter Andre attend a photoshoot to promote new additions to the line up for next Month's MTV Music Awards.

Video releases

"THE QUEST" (MCA/Universal, R) Jean-Claude Van Damme made his debut as a director with this adventure, in which he also stars as — surprise, surprise — a kickboxing expert who becomes one of the contenders in a traditional competition in Tibet. However, he still has to contend with the underworld background from which he's emerged; Roger Moore and James Remar also have major roles. ** (PG-13: P, V)

"KIDS IN THE HALL: BRAIN CANDY" (Paramount) Marking possibly the final time the original members of the Canadian comedy troupe will be seen together — since Dave Foley, now of NBC's "NewsRadio," reportedly has severed his ties to it — this comedy finds the gang involved in the problems that are generated when an untested drug is released to the public too soon, resulting in mass euphoria. ** (R: AS, P)

COMING SOON: "BEFORE AND AFTER" (Hollywood, Sept. 24): Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson play a couple divided on whether their son could have murdered his girlfriend. (PG-13)

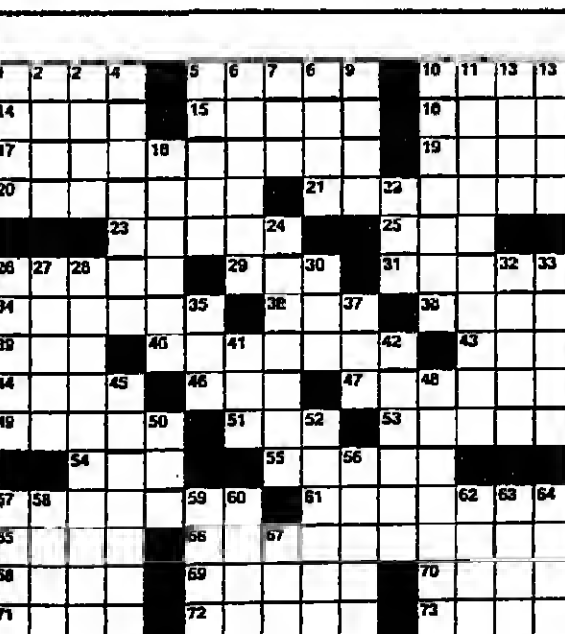
"BOTTLE ROCKET" (Columbia/TriStar, Sept. 24): Director Wes Anderson's acclaimed comedy centers on a youthful crime spree; James Caan is in the cast. (R)

"A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE & HATE" (New Line, Sept. 24): Martin Lawrence plays a ladies' man who irks a lethal woman (Lynn Whitfield) in this comedy-thriller. (R)

"TWO MUCH" (Touchstone, Sept. 24): Antonio Banderas plays a man who finds himself falling for his would-be bride's (Melanie Griffith) sister (Daryl Hannah). (PG-13)

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| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Plate with gold | 1 Dainties |
| 5 Flat fish | 2 Concept |
| 10 Father of Seth | 3 Deficit |
| 14 Fragrance | 4 Fine china |
| 15 To one side | 5 Relish |
| 18 Renovate | 6 First game of the season |
| 19 Significantly | 7 Young fellow |
| 20 Egyptian goddess | 8 Gardener of woodlands |
| 21 English writer and poet | 9 Hades' mver |
| 22 Looks forward to | 10 Short melody: var. |
| 23 Ventured | 11 Outspring |
| 25 Native of staff | 12 Mine entrance |
| 28 Certain bird | 13 Lichen |
| 29 Acolerata (with up) | 14 Bellowed |
| 31 Lab burners | 15 Descent of a kind |
| 34 Durne and Ryan | 16 Czar |
| 36 A Caesar | 17 Helps with the dishes |
| 38 Advantage | 18 Green mountain |
| 39 Foodie pan | 19 Ruin |
| 40 Lose hope | |

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Do jobs that require intense concentration, while the moon's in Scorpio. Anticipate changes.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Dues and fees dig deep into your savings. You may even go over into the debit column. Sports activities could lead to great friendships and maybe even romance.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). These days are very productive — if you and your partner work together instead of arguing. Shop carefully and find an amazing treasure.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Sick to business — no excuses. A change in roommates or something about your living arrangements disrupts your schedule.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Watch for a passionate person's playful glance. This could be the start of something big. Don't make a date — you won't have time.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Make decisions concerning your family and/or living arrangements. A sports date leads to a pleasant surprise. Check your work carefully.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A friend can help you with a difficult assignment. Let people know what you need. Your room could get all messed up. Don't freak out.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Money comes in and goes out in rapid succession. Channel some of it into savings. Discuss lofty ideas with a fascinating person.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your team will win, due to your inspired coaching. Focus on finances or you'll wonder where the money went.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Comply with bureaucratic regulations. It's not worth the bother to argue. Your opinion will carry more weight soon.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your friends can get you the inside information. Consult a supervisor in private and catch a potential problem before it gets bigger.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't win an argument with a stubborn person. Wait and achieve your goal by going through friends.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You and your supervisor are on different wavelengths, especially when discussing religion or philosophy. Learn, but also teach.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: You can learn whatever you want to know this year. Be per-

Bridge

Handle With Care
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9
♥ Q 10 8 4
♦ A Q J 4 3
♣ J 10 5

WEST EAST
♠ K Q J 8 7 ♠ 4 3 2
♥ 9 ♥ K J 7 5 3 2
♦ K 9 6 5 ♦ 10 2
♣ A 8 3 ♣ 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A 10 6 5
♥ A 6
♦ 8 7
♣ K Q 9 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
2NT Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Ask experts which of the myriad conventions in common use today they consider an essential weapon in their arsenal, and we venture to suggest that the Negative Double would win overwhelmingly. This is a double by responder of an overall as a takeout bid rather than for penalties.

A Negative Double by North of West's one-spade overcall on this auction would have shown the red

suits and tolerance for opening bidder's suit — a perfect description of North's hand. Since North-South were not employing the convention, North opted for a free two-level response in a suit higher ranking than opener's, and an uncomfortable three-no-trump contract was the result.

West led the king of spades and, when declarer held up the ace, continued with the queen. A second holdup by South forced West to switch, since a spade continuation would concede a second trick in the suit. The nine of hearts was covered by the ten and jack and taken with the ace, and the jack of diamonds was successfully finessed. West cumulated declarer by twice holding up the ace of clubs when the jack was led from the table and a low club to the nine provided access to the closed hand.

Declarer used the entry to repeat the diamond finesse, then cashed the ace, discarding the ten of spades from hand, in the hope the suit would break. When it did not, declarer exited with the ten of clubs to West's ace. West could cash the king of diamonds, but was then obliged to put declarer back on play with a spade, and two good clubs gave South a total of nine tricks.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRAAL
DULIF
SUMMUE
ZEEWEH

Answer here: THE

THE

Answer: SWEET LIFE

Answer: MUSEUM



WHAT THE WELL-TO-DO CANDY MAKER ENJOYED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

TRUE!

By Daryl Cagle



When women issue a "marry me or else" ultimatum, 47 percent get marriage and 53 percent get or else.

SLAPSTIX

Solitude is the mother of anxieties.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Jacques Chirac est arrivé en Jordanie

Le Jourdain consacre cette semaine une page spéciale à l'occasion de la visite du président français Jacques Chirac en Jordanie. Arrivé hier soir, le président français a immédiatement rencontré le roi Hussein. Il prononcera ce matin un discours sur le thème «Islam et société» devant les deux chambres du Parlement jordanien, avant de donner une conférence de presse en compagnie du roi Hussein. Jacques Chirac s'envolera ensuite en fin d'après-midi pour le Liban où il restera jusqu'à samedi. Sa tournée au Proche-Orient s'achèvera samedi soir, après une visite de quelques heures en Egypte.



Interview

«Assurer l'équilibre de la région»

Pour M. Bernard Bajolet, Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, la situation actuelle régionale se prête à un rôle politique accru de la France et de l'Europe. Celui-ci pourrait passer par un co-parrainage du processus de paix aux côtés des États-Unis et de la Russie.

Avez-vous l'impression que le moment soit propice pour que la France joue un rôle politique plus important dans la région?

Il y a une attente dans la région. Il y avait d'ailleurs depuis longtemps une attente de la France, attente qui a longtemps été sous-estimée à Paris. On a le sentiment qu'il y a une ambiance qui se prête à un rôle accru de la France et de l'Europe dans la région.

Il y a de notre côté une volonté d'être présent dans cette région qui n'est pas une volonté à court terme parce que nous sommes liés à cette région par toutes sortes de liens historiques, affectifs, culturels, et économiques. Tout ce qui vibre dans cette région nous fait également vibrer. C'est une région où nous avons une partie de nos racines et c'est une région dont la stabilité et la prospérité nous importent. Pour nous, le bassin méditerranéen, d'une façon générale, est une priorité.

Il faut ajouter à cela que le processus de paix, qui paraissait bien parti, connaît des difficultés et que dans cette conjoncture bien particulière, le rôle de la France est encore plus important.

Cette aspiration française ne se heurte-t-elle pas à la volonté des Israéliens de limiter le rôle de l'Europe dans le processus de paix à un rôle économique?

Le processus de paix ne peut avancer que dans l'équilibre. Or, l'équilibre, actuellement, n'existe pas. Je ne mets en cause aucun des acteurs. Mais je constate simplement une chose: le système de co-parrainage tel qu'il fonctionne actuellement n'est pas satisfaisant. Je constate que ce système

n'est pas vraiment un système équilibré et qu'il n'est pas non plus totalement neutre. Je pense qu'une présence européenne aiderait à assurer un certain équilibre car sans équilibre, il n'y a pas de confiance, et sans confiance, on ne peut pas avancer. C'est donc de l'intérêt de toutes les parties, et donc aussi d'Israël, qu'il y ait un certain équilibre et une certaine confiance.

Sous quelle forme la France et l'Europe peuvent-elles participer plus activement au processus de paix?

Il y a un médiateur américain qui participe aux négociations de paix. On n'a pas besoin de deux médiateurs car ce serait plutôt un élément de complication. Mais il y a d'autres moyens d'être présent. Nous pensons que si nous étions co-parrains aux côtés des États-Unis et de la Russie, cela assurerait un plus grand équilibre du processus de paix. Dans ce rôle de co-parrainage, il s'agit surtout de s'assurer que les règles du jeu sont bien respectées.

L'Europe n'a pas le statut de co-parrain sur le plan juridique. Nous, nous suggérons qu'elle l'ait car elle est déjà co-parrain de fait. Elle est présente par ce qu'elle dit. Ainsi, le fait qu'elle ait indiqué, après les événements sanglants qui ont fait 85 morts dans les territoires palestiniens et en Israël, ce qui lui paraissait être les bases d'un accord entre Palestiniens et Israéliens est très important. Donc l'Europe, d'ores et déjà, joue un rôle qui n'est pas seulement un rôle économique mais qui est un rôle politique. Il est certain que si ce rôle était officialisé, cet équilibre serait encore mieux assuré.



M. Bernard Bajolet, Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie.

Mais ce rôle peut-il être officialisé si seulement une des deux parties le souhaite?

La paix, de toute façon, ne peut pas se faire tout seul. Une seule partie ne peut pas faire la paix avec elle-même. Pour cette raison, il n'appartient pas à une seule des parties de dire en quoi doit consister la paix et comment elle doit être organisée. Pour que la paix soit faite, il faut qu'il y ait cette atmosphère de confiance. Or, je le répète, je suis persuadé que l'Europe peut contribuer à cette confiance.

La partie jordanienne de la tournée présidentielle revêt-elle un caractère politique aussi fort que dans les autres pays visités?

L'ensemble du voyage du président de la République est un voyage très politique. Le fait qu'il englobe l'ensemble des partenaires de la région montre que ce sont les aspects politiques qui dominent. Depuis la Jordanie, comme depuis les autres pays visités, le président de

la République lancera un message qui est un message politique fort.

Les relations économiques ou culturelles entre la France et la Jordanie seront-elles aussi abordées au cours de cette visite?

Le but de cette visite est bien sûr aussi de renforcer les relations bilatérales avec chacun des partenaires parce que pour être présent dans une région, il faut non seulement répondre aux attentes politiques, mais il faut en même temps renforcer les liens avec chacun des pays, chacun des peuples qui font partie de cette région. C'est le cas pour la Jordanie. Le voyage est l'occasion de confirmer le caractère loyal et fait exceptionnel et amical de nos relations. Il permettra aussi d'enregistrer de nouvelles avancées dans le domaine économique et culturel.

Propos recueillis par Olivier Bras

Visite au Proche-Orient

La ferveur française des Palestiniens

Le président français Jacques Chirac a reçu hier un accueil particulièrement chaleureux dans les territoires palestiniens où il a rappelé devant le Conseil législatif la volonté de la France de voir les droits des Palestiniens respectés.

«Le peuple de Palestine assiéé interpellé le peuple de France. Voilà notamment ce que l'on pouvait lire sur l'une des innombrables banderoles placées dans les rues de Gaza pour accueillir le président Chirac et saluer l'amitié franco-palestinienne.

Dans les jours précédents cette visite, Gaza avait connu un gigantesque nettoyage, les ouvriers travaillant jour et nuit pour décorer et blanchir les murs de la ville, ainsi qu'installer des drapeaux français dans les rues. Gaza, que Napoléon décrivait comme «la porte de l'Asie et le pont pour l'Afrique» s'est en effet activement préparée pour accueillir l'héritier du général de Gaulle. «Le bannissement de la paix des braves», comme le décrit souvent Yasser Arafat qui aime déclarer qu'il cherche toujours «un De Gaulle israélien».

Le peuple palestinien n'oublie pas les positions courageuses du général de Gaulle. A

l'occasion de cette visite de Gaza, une rue Charles de Gaulle a d'ailleurs été inaugurée par Jacques Chirac.

La visite du président Chirac dans les territoires palestiniens a suscité une grande satisfaction parmi la population. Jacques Chirac n'était certes pas le premier chef d'État à se rendre dans les territoires et notamment à Gaza, la capitale palestinienne. Il a été précédé, entre autres, par le Premier ministre britannique, le président turc et le chef d'État portugais. Mais il est le premier à s'être adressé hier matin devant le Conseil législatif palestinien de Ramallah, c'est-à-dire le parlement palestinien élu en janvier dernier.

Selon les propos de Philippe Séguin, président de l'Assemblée nationale française, le fait de prendre la parole devant cette assemblée équivalait pour les Palestiniens à une reconnaissance de facto d'un État palestinien.

Les mots de Jacques Chirac (voir encadré) sont venus renforcer hier ceux déjà prononcés en avril dernier à l'université du Caire.

«La France de retour» Parallèlement à l'important soutien financier de la France aux territoires palestiniens qui se monte à 270 millions de francs pour 1996, soit la grande majorité de l'aide internationale reçue par les Palestiniens, les Palestiniens appoient la volonté européenne, et notamment française, de jouer un rôle plus actif aux côtés des États-Unis dans le processus de paix déjà fragilisé avant même l'élection de Benjamin Netanyahu au poste de Premier ministre.

Au moment où le processus de paix est gravement menacé, les États-Unis sont en pleine campagne électorale et les Palestiniens savent qu'ils doivent se tourner vers les Européens et vers la France pour espérer un rééquilibrage des rapports de force dans les négociations actuelles et à venir.

«La France est de retour», comme l'a déclaré le ministre français des Affaires étrangères Hervé de Charette.

Un retour qui ne peut que réjouir les Palestiniens et l'ensemble des Arabes dans une région explosive voisine d'une Europe qui cherche à jouer un rôle contesté aujourd'hui par les Américains.

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi



Le Centre culturel français de Gaza.

RECUEILLI Une carte a été émise, le samedi dernier, dans la liste des ministres accompagnant la visite de M. Chirac. Yves Galland, ministre délégué des Finances, et du Commerce extérieur, et son ministre de l'Industrie.

Quant à M. Hervé Caynaud, secrétaire d'État à la Santé et à la Sécurité sociale, il ne participe finalement pas à l'ensemble de la visite au Proche-Orient du président Chirac et n'est pas présent en Jordanie.

Media

Une journée française

Les médias jordaniens francophones et arabophones assureront aujourd'hui une large couverture de la visite du président Chirac.

Le français se fait largement entendre depuis hier en Jordanie. A l'occasion de la visite sur deux jours de Jacques Chirac, la radio jordanienne en français (RJF) et le département français de la télévision jordanienne proposent des programmes spéciaux (voir encadré).

Au lieu de ses deux tranches horaires quotidiennes, RJF a émis ses émissions de 7h à 20h00 hier et recommencera aujourd'hui. Des émissions qui alternent musique et sujets traitant des relations franco-jordanien dans le domaine politique, culturel ou économique.

La deuxième chaîne jordanienne, qui accueille la télévision en français, a elle commencée depuis mardi à bouleverser ses grilles pour offrir plus d'heures de programme en français. Elle a notamment retransmis hier soir en direct l'allocution du président Chirac depuis le palais Basman.

Et aujourd'hui, elle retransmettra à la fois le discours du président français au parlement et la conférence de presse qui suivra dans l'après-midi.

A noter aussi que le royaume hachémite sera à l'honneur en France et en Jordanie grâce à une émission spéciale de *Faut pas rêver* proposée vendredi sur la chaîne française France 3 et dimanche en Jordanie.

Cette émission spéciale qui a été enregistrée à Pétra, sera diffusée dimanche 26 octobre à 17h30 sur la deuxième chaîne jordanienne. Une émission de 90 minutes animée par Sylvain Augier, avec pour invité l'écrivain et journaliste Michel Le Bris.

Olivier Bras

Des programmes spéciaux le 24 octobre

RADIO
RJF (90,1 FM) diffusera en continu de 7h00 à 20h00 des programmes alternant musique et émissions consacrées aux relations franco-jordanien.

TELEVISION
Deuxième chaîne
11h30: Discours de Jacques Chirac au parlement jordanien
12h30: Documentaire: la Tour Eiffel
15h00: Conférence de presse de Jacques Chirac
15h30: Film *Le petit prince* de d'Alphonse Mucha
17h30: Divertissement: *Le Monde est à vous*
19h30: Le journal en français
23h30: *Taratata*

C'est la vie
L'agenda français d'Amman

Exposition
«Ghada Dahdaleh». Une jeune peintre jordanienne, Ghada Dahdaleh, revient dans le royaume hachémite après un long séjour au Canada pour présenter son exposition «Portes et fenêtres». Jusqu'au 29 octobre au Centre Culturel français (CCF).

Vidéo
Cycle Alain Resnais: quatre films sont présentés dans le cadre de ce cycle au mois d'octobre. «Melo», le 28 octobre à 20h00 au CCF.

Portraits croisés

Français et Jordaniens ne se connaissent pas bien

A l'occasion de la venue du président français en Jordanie, le royaume hachémite va être fortement médiatisé en France. De même, la France est devenue l'un des sujets incontournables en Jordanie ces derniers jours.

Une médiatisation qui aidera probablement Français et Jordaniens à mieux se connaître.

En France, le royaume hachémite de Jordanie est devenu une des destinations touristiques à la mode. Mais il reste peu connu.

A l'ombre de la Tour Eiffel, l'image de la France reste assez vague aux yeux des Jordaniens qui semblent cependant assez attirés par ce pays.

Chaque soir d'actualité brûlante au Proche-Orient, la Jordanie apparaît à la télévision sur les cartes géographiques, entre Israël et l'Irak. Mais le royaume reste mystérieux aux yeux du grand public; et beaucoup ont du mal à le situer, quelque part entre Syrie et Maroc. Bref, «un vague mix entre Proche-Orient et Maghreb», comme le résume Michel Leconte, 22 ans, étudiant à Rouen. Et pour ce qui est des Jordaniens, «quelques bédouins, des sous-interrimables ou l'on égorge le mouton devant toi, et où les femmes essaient d'adopter les préceptes de l'Islam aux dernières tendances de la mode».

Pourtant, la destination fait rêver. Il y a d'abord les érudits, qui savent que les piliers de la sagesse se dressent entre Aqaba et le Wadi Rum, sur les traces de T.H. Lawrence.

Les fous de vieilles pierres, qui savent que quelque part se niche la mythique Pétra. Les fans de Tintin, qui reconnaissent la Cité Rose dans «Tintin au pays de l'or noir».

Les amateurs de plongée sous-marine, qui citent les fonds du Golfe d'Aqaba.

Surtout, elle incarne un tourisme différent, loin du bronzage passif sur une plage exotique. Jean-Pierre Perrot, cardiologue à la Rochelle, est venu en Jordanie il y a 10 ans en vacances avec son épouse. La première génération de touristes.

«On rêvait de désert et de souk oriental, hors des sentiers battus et des armées pour touristes. Le désert était bien là, et puis Pétra, Jérash... Par contre, Amman était décevante. C'est une ville sans âme. C'est quelques années plus

tard, en visitant Damas, que nous avons trouvé une ville arabe telle que nous l'imaginions. Ou plutôt, qui collait mieux à notre cliché à nous du charme de l'Orient. Reste une impression: celle d'un pays encore vierge».

Depuis, la Jordanie a signé la paix avec Israël, et a misé sur le développement du tourisme. Du coup, elle a perdu son odeur de souffre auprès des agences de voyage qui l'ont rajoutée à leurs catalogues de destinations.

Dans le métro parisien, le royaume se faufile entre Seychelles et Marrakech sur les panneaux publicitaires des compagnies aériennes, et il est cité comme l'une des destinations les plus en vogue par le magazine féminin *Elle*.

Certains agences, comme le Comptoir des Voyages, à Paris, ont multiplié par 4 les ventes de séjours d'une semaine en Jordanie.

A l'arrivée du vol régulier Amman-Damas-Paris d'Air France, les voyageurs sont comblés. «Nous étions partis sans connaître grand chose de la Jordanie», raconte Bernard, 47 ans. «Au départ, on voulait aller en Egypte, mais ce n'est pas très original. Et puis ce n'est plus un pays très sûr pour les touristes par les temps qui courent...»

Entourée de voisins turbu-

lents, la Jordanie présente son profil d'élève sage, et discret. Même les émeutes du pain du mois d'août dernier ont soulevé peu d'inquiétudes. Pour ceux

Pour la plupart des Jordaniens, la France se limite à Paris et à la Tour Eiffel. Et les femmes d'ajouter: les parfums et la mode aussi. Ceux qui sui-

jourd'hui et demain dans le royaume hachémite.

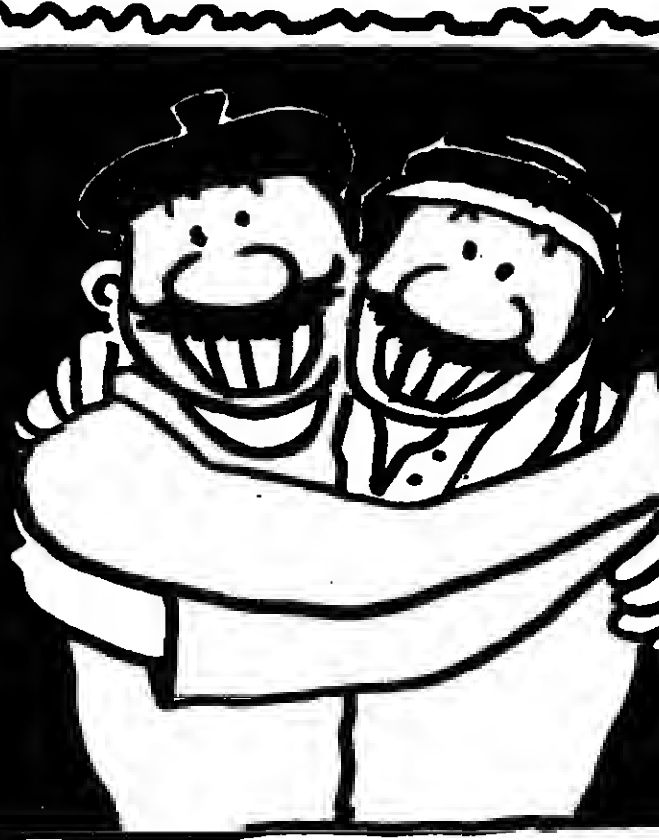
Mais malgré une connaissance quelque peu sommaire de l'hexagone qui se limite bien à

quelques sites dans sa capitale, tous les Jordaniens donnent l'impression d'avoir envie de s'y rendre.

Dans la rue, dans les magasins ou bien au restaurant, la question reste la même: des qu'un Français ou une Française dévoile sa nationalité: «comment faire pour obtenir un visa pour la France?»

Des visas, le consulat de l'Ambassade de France d'Amman en délivre entre 6500 et 7000 chaque année. Des visas touristiques en majorité, ou bien pour rendre visite à des membres de leur famille.

Ce n'est pas uniquement pour faire du tourisme que Nabil Al Said, directeur du restaurant Al Shorfa, remplit son formulaire de demande de visa. Le 25 octobre, il est attendu à Paris pour recevoir une médaille décernée



qui aiment voyager, le royaume hachémite représente la porte la plus sûre vers le Proche-Orient.

De Paris, Xavier Meunier

Claudine Assad

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Carvantes Institute (Spanish)	610858	Al Hussein Sports City	6671815
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Orthodox Club	810491
Hays Arts Centre	665195	Royal Automobile Club	815410
Y.W.C.A.	641793	Royal Shooting Club	736572
Y.W.M.A.	643252	Royal Chess Club	673713
Dar al Funun	639303	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Alia Art Gallery	657132	Jordan Bridge Club	676990
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Bahraini	6641489	Russian	641158
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Bulgarian	675683	Slovenia Honorary Cons.	861542
Canadian	818151	Sri Lanka	683905/704960
Chilean	666124	South African	660745/6
Cyprus Honorary Cons	677559	Spanish	614166/9
Czech	671813/666135	Sudanese	644251/2
Danish Consulate Gen	603703	Swedish	669177/9
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676	Swiss	686416/7
French	641273/4	Syrian	641076
German	669531	Taiwan	671530
Greek	671331/2	Tunisian	674307/8
Hungarian	815614	Turkish	641251
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Japanese	672486/7	Yemeni	642381
Kuwait	671335/8		
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Romanian	667738		
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Saudi Arabian	814154/6		
Slovenia Honorary Cons.	861542		
Sri Lanka	683905/704960		
South African	660745/6		
Spanish	614166/9		
Sudanese	644251/2		
Swedish	669177/9		
Swiss	686416/7		
Syrian	641076		
Taiwan	671530		
Tunisian	674307/8		
Turkish	641251		
U.A.E.	643347/643341		
United Kingdom	823100		
United States	820101		
Yemen	642381		
Yemeni	642381		

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Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	633613
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Iran Air	630879
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Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
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Sudan Airlines	694501
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Syrian Air	622147
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Army, Marka	891611/15
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Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaledi Maternity	644281/6
Mahas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Shmeisani Hospital	607431
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/73
University Hospital	845845

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Amman Municipality	843402
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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Newsgrups promote the new cyber dialect and Internet Jargon: A Net-speak 101 course!

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

"HUMANS ARE talking animals", it was once said. Yet, talking in itself—without listening, that is—would be as good as nothing!

It is the ability of humans to both talk and listen that allows for the relaying of diverse experiences and situations, which lead to the accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. Humans would therefore be better described as "communicating animals."

For, it seems, that we are never at loss in devising and utilizing new media for communication, the latest of which are the Internet's Newsgrups and Bulletin Boards Services' electronic "conferences."

Jordanians generally regard the Internet as Email and World Wide Web only. This is mainly due to the fact that the Jordanian node to the Internet doesn't offer access to the Internet's Newsgrups, because of the narrow bandwidth of 64 kbps that connects Global One/Sprint Jordan's site to the US.

This absence of the Newsgrups makes the Internet's services in Jordan severely lacking. Newsgrups are essentially the offspring of the UNIX-based message posting that was developed in the 1970's. Newsgrups offer an effective way for all Internet users to discuss issues of common interest: for instance there is a Newsgrup on the Internet with the name "soc.culture.jordan," which contains discussions and exchange of information oo

Jordan's culture by loads of interested Internet users. As the Jordanians reside on all the Internet hosts that subscribe to them and are con-



tinuously replicated to update all new messages, accessing a newsgrup is a much faster experience than accessing a web page. This is because the user only connects directly to the server containing the Newsgrups, rather than going through many intermediary servers which usually compromises the speed. Newsgrups are very popular for many reasons, the most prominent of which is the ability to communicate with people from all over the world on subjects of common interest, as well as the occasional useful information provided by experts on these subjects.

While Jordan's dismal infrastructure has, to date, deprived the small cyber community of Jordan from enjoying the Newsgrups, Jordanians have, for the past year and a half, been enjoying a local version of the Internet's Newsgrups.

This was possible by the two Bulletin Board services, NETS and Access, which provide many electronic conferences on various subjects for their subscribers to engage in lively debates and discussions. One common conference that both services have is "Culture" where subscribers engage in discussions on themes of cultural significance.

"A Better Jordan" is a thriving conference on NETS where subscribers discuss issues ranging from the In-fada to the longest picnic park in the world (a.k.a. the airport road). The Internet's newly evolved jargon contains many terms that describe participants' habits in electronic conferences as well as their messages. For instance a "flamer" is somebody who is very touchy about a certain issue, who would send a hot reply to any opposing view. The reply would usually have SHOUTING SENTENCES (capitals are considered shouting on the Internet) and would probably result in a "holy war" (seemingly unending debates on controversial issues such as privatization and censorship). Furthermore, any newsgrup or electronic conference will have more "lurkers" than participants, i.e. those people who are content by just reading the different postings and never engaging themselves in the debate. On the other extreme are the "spammers", who are the group of users fervently sending "spam" messages of mass advertisements with no relevant or useful content. Then there is the "get a life" bunch, who are people spending too much time on-line and are reading and, almost,

replying to every message. "IMHO" (in my humble opinion). Newsgrups and their locally confined cousins, the electronic conferences, are a brilliant addition to the communication means available to humanity. These entertaining and highly beneficial "meeting rooms" should only add to the accumulation of knowledge, despite the occasional presence of "flames" and "spam".

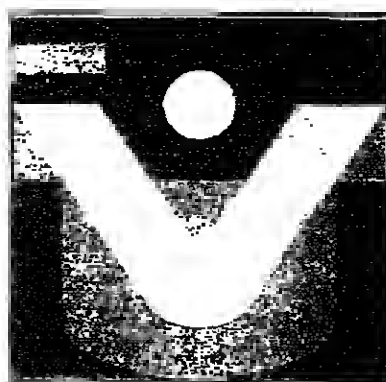
The next version of the very popular DTP software: Debag, 'Al-Nasher Al Sahafi 7.0'

THOUSANDS OF Arabic desktop publishing (DTP) personnel look into a screen running a version of 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi' every day of their lives. It is simply the standard for desktop publishing in the Arab World.

The Macintosh is the undisputed choice for Arabic DTP, and 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi' hasn't been seriously challenged by other products—except possibly Arabic XT for QuarkXPress, which didn't manage to gain the market share of 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi'. So, it would be fair to say that any developments in 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi' would radically affect the ways in which Arab designers, artists, publishers and journalists go about their usual computer-aided tasks.

Following this introduction, it is important to note that 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi' does have its problems, and most of its users out there know what they are. The sudden crashing, for no reason usually is one major problem. Sometimes 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi' has a mind of its own, sticking text blocks wherever it sees suitable, even if you've pasted them elsewhere, and there's more. With

so many dedicated specialists operating 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi', there many detailed remarks and complaints which have definitely been sounded over and over again. Diwan Software Ltd., the new company established after



the original Diwan for Science & Technology went belly up, it had a surprise in store for 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi' fans.

It is called 'Debag GX' and it is expected to include massive improvements on 'Al-Nasher Al-Sahafi' 6.0, currently on the market. Of course, backward compatibility is maintained for you 6.0 files. Debag, also known as 'Al-

Nasher Al-Sahafi 7.0', will introduce a number of new features, which fit the developments being witnessed today in the world of publishing.

First, it will incorporate a feature that supports Arabic Web publishing, utilizing HTML. This alone is a massive advancement, as no other company has still announced its software's ability to publish Arabic on the Internet! Second, there are a handful of new features related to font quality which include more flexibility in manipulating different Arabic fonts and the inclusion of the widest library possible of fonts. Third, the product focuses on solving some of the problems mentioned before, due to its 'more-stable' nature as it utilizes the built-in features of the new Apple PowerMacintosh system, hence the inclusion of the letters 'GX' in its name. The product is still not officially available for review, but we will be telling you more about it when it finally arrives.

In the meantime, keep your hopes up that your daily DTP activities will witness a change. It's called 'Debag GX'.

News update

Cyrix 200MHz processors hit the market.

For all those power hungry users out there, the Cyrix 6x86 processor is starting to appear in desktop PCs.

This processor offers speeds of 150MHz all the way up to a phenomenal 200MHz, and out-performs Intel-based Pentium systems due to the fact that it utilizes a 75MHz bus and capitalizes on high performance components like well-configured SCSI drivers. Already, the Cyrix 6x86 has appeared in PCs from

companies like Polywell, Sys Technology and Cyrix itself.

Produced PC that included the processor. In the coming months, this blistering chip will catch on and find its way into other PCs. It is worth seeing how Intel will hit back.

15 Mac systems from different suppliers:

Truly a Mac attack

The headlines in the computer press are raving about the onslaught of Macintosh system releases, which all seem to be happening at once. Around 15 new Macintosh systems have appeared in the past two months.

Apple is at the center of all the action, of course, but it's not the only company which is producing high performance Macintosh systems nowadays.

Clone supplier including Power Computing and Day Star are making their presence really felt

in the upper-scale class of multi-processor Macintosh systems.

Genie back to Apple, the company introduced a whole new range of Performa systems, the top speed of which is a magnificent 200MHz. However, this speed is being matched. Day Star have also announced the Digital Genesis MP (Multi-Processor) which also offers speed in the 200MHz bracket. Still, the massive surprise is coming from somewhere else.

Power Computing has announced its Power Tower Pro which runs at a breathtaking speed of 225MHz.

It's the Mac that beats the whole pack, so far. In fact, it even outperforms the fastest Pentium PC.

It is said that Apple is planning a 240MHz version of its Performa, to blow the competition away.

For now, its worth watching this speed mania closely, before making your next Macintosh purchase.

Performa: 'Slick' black Mac

Italian coach Sacchi under increasing pressure

ROME—Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi, widely seen as a lame duck after a poor Euro '96 and recent dismal form by his team, could be ousted before Italy plays England in their next World Cup qualifier in London on February 12.

Italian newspapers reported on Tuesday that the Italian soccer federation, currently governed by a special commissioner after a failed attempt to elect a successor to Antonio Matarrese, had discussed Sacchi with top officials.

They included Luciano Nizzola, the League president now considered the inevitable successor to Matarrese, who was Sacchi's main mentor before being ousted after Euro 96.

The federation holds its next ballot to elect a new president in December. The Rome daily La Repubblica quoted an unnamed top federation official as saying that "Sacchi's presence in England is now a hypothesis, no

longer a certainty."

It said under-21 coach Cesare Maldini, the father of Italian skipper Paolo Maldini, was expected to take over until June 1997, when a permanent replacement would be announced—with Lazio and former Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff a front runner along with former Parma coach Nevio Scala.

The daily Corriere dello Sport quoted Nizzola saying that "the problem exists, we must look at it carefully...The fact is that we want to bring all Italy behind the team."

Sacchi, who led Italy to the 1994 World Cup final against Brazil, was given a new contract just before the Euro 96 championship in England last June. And that contract, which does not expire until after the 1998 World Cup finals, is the main reason he has not been sacked from his job.

Worth a huge \$1.07 million a

year after tax, the Italian federation know it would be economic madness to dismiss Sacchi, pay him off—and pay his successor.

Recent opinion polls have shown a majority of Italians want him to go, even though Italy currently have a maximum six points from their two World Cup qualifiers so far.

Indeed, Italy have one of the best records in Europe over the last two years despite their failure in Euro 96. Since reaching the World Cup final in 1994, they have played 20 matches, won 13, drawn four and lost three—a record bettered only by Germany, Spain and France.

But it is the nature of the way the national team have been playing, and Sacchi's philosophy about his team's tactics and personnel, which have



antagonised almost the entire, passionate world of Italian soccer.

If Sacchi does leave, speculation is that he will return to club coaching and media reports have linked him with several clubs recently, including Inter and his former employers Milan.

Cantona 'lucky not to have been sent off' says Albert

LONDON—Manchester United's French skipper Eric Cantona was "lucky not to have been sent off" during his team's 5-0 defeat at Newcastle United, Newcastle's Belgian defender Philippe Albert said on Monday.

Albert, who scored a superb goal to complete the rout, said on Monday he told Cantona: "You know you should have been sent off."

A fierce argument just after half-time at St. James' Park was followed by Cantona being booked for pushing Albert out of the way, as he was when the pair clashed during August's Charity Shield match at Wembley.

Albert later led protests after Cantona's late tackle floored Peter Beardsley, saying: "If he is honest he will agree that he was really lucky to stay on the field."

He seemed to be upset with all the things going on around him, especially in the second

half. "I had the same son of feelings when we were being beaten 4-0 by Manchester United at Wembley. The difference was that we didn't start, trying to kick people."

"We worked very hard, because if you don't win the 50-50 balls you don't have a chance."

Cantona has not been dismissed since returning to the game a year ago after his eight-month ban imposed following the infamous occasion in January last year when he was sent off playing against Crystal Palace—and then attacked an abusive fan on the way to the dressing room.

Alan Shearer, whose 21.0 million pounds (\$34 million) partnership with Les Ferdi-



Cantona tackle could have sent him off the field

nand has produced 18 goals. refused to gloat after the victory.

"United are the team to beat, and have been for the last five or six years," said the

England skipper. "I still believe that whoever finishes above them will win the League."

It was Manchester's first League defeat this season. ■

Klinsmann dismisses talk of return to England

LONDON—Germany captain Jurgen Klinsmann ended weeks of speculation about his immediate future when he said on Monday he was staying at Bayern Munich—and had no plans to return to England.

Asked on BBC Radio's European Football Show whether returning to England was a real possibility, Klinsmann, voted England's Footballer of the Year for his performances with Tottenham in the 1994-95 season, gave an emphatic reply.

"No, not at the moment," he said. "In football you never know—anything can happen. In the last few weeks there were a couple of rumours going around because I had a few problems, I didn't score for

a couple of weeks and immediately they start to criticise you. "But now lately I scored again, so suddenly everything is perfect again. For me it was never a question of leaving just because I didn't score a goal for a few weeks."

He said he knew Tottenham fans were disappointed when he left London after only one year, but added: "I am also not the kind of person who always wants to leave a place after one or two seasons."

"I know that people were disappointed when I left Tottenham, but I explained it to the people. And I don't want to do that again. I want people to feel I stay for a long time, and that is what I am going to do in Munich."

Asked if he could be tempted to join a club like Manchester United, he replied: "Big clubs always tempt you in a certain way, but I am playing in a very big club."

"I would say Bayern Munich is on the level of Manchester United, AC Milan, Juventus or Barcelona, so I am playing in one of the best clubs in the world—I am happy and proud of it."

He also revealed he was seriously unhappy with Bayern when someone in the club leaked details of his contract to the media recently.

"There was also speculation here (about my future) because information was given to the public, from the club, regarding certain clauses in my contract,

for example that I can leave at the end of the season on a free transfer. So immediately the rumours started."

"I told the club I was very disappointed that contents of my contract were leaked to the media and I was very critical with a few people here but now, it is in the past."

Klinsmann, who led Germany to victory in Euro 96 in England in June, has struggled to find his form this season and has scored only a handful of goals.

His touch deserted him again on Sunday when he missed a number of clearcut chances in Bayern's 0-0 draw with champions Borussia Dortmund. ■

Giants' offensive line, quarterbacking improve

By Neil Best
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Whatever hopes the New York Giants had for playoff contention all but evaporated after Sunday's 31-21 loss to the Washington Redskins. They are 0-4 in the NFC East for the first time since 1979, and are alone in last place at 3-5.

The good news is that as nice as winning is, this season mostly is about developing young players, and there finally were positive signs in the two most analyzed areas of all: quarterback Dave Brown and the offensive line.

Early on, it looked like more of the same Sunday. Brown entered the game having been sacked an extraordinary once for every 5.5 pass attempts, and on back-to-back plays on the first series, he was hammered. First, Marcus Patton and Sean Gilbert drove him to the turf on a play whistled dead because of a penalty. Then, Dexter Nottage blew past guard Ron Stone and sacked him.

In the huddle, Brown challenged his line to regroup, and eventually, it did. After falling behind 28-0 and getting an earful from coach Dan Reeves at half-time, the line and Brown were transformed. Sure, the Redskins might have eased up with a big lead, but they also knew the Giants had to pass, yet were unable to get consistent pressure on Brown.

The offense let loose and scored three touchdowns on the first four series of the second half—one fewer than in the previous six games combined. Before mistaking on his final five attempts, Brown was 16 for 22 for 216 yards in the half. "When you get the protection, a lot of good things can happen," he said.

Was it the calming influence of left guard Lance Smith, making his first start in place of second-year man Rob Zatechka? Was it a sense of desperation and emotion? Was it something that finally clicked collectively? Perhaps it is all the above. Check back Sunday against the Lions.

"It has to be like the second half the

rest of the season, and I don't expect any less of us," tackle Scott Gragg said. "You have to look at it and say, that's the turning point, where Dave got some confidence in the offensive line and the offensive line put a little pressure on ourselves and took some risks and got the job done."

Said tight end Howard Cross: "We showed it this past week, coming out and pushing those guys around and basically dominating them. They couldn't believe what was happening. They were just getting beat. Our offensive line was crushing them. I think we can pick up where we left off, definitely."

As for Brown, Reeves praised him profusely for his courage and poise. Last week, he criticized him for getting rattled by the Philadelphia Eagles' rush. "Dave got hit and hit hard early and didn't flinch," Reeves said. "He kept setting up and trusting that the protection was going to be there and made some great throws. He made a couple with pressure right in his face. Incredible throws." ■